a Silent Voice

5

yoshitoki oima

a Silent Voice
5

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I was a lonely wolf.
Always alone.
There is nothing as fickle in this world as human feelings.
And this world disgusted me.
The only things I could trust were money…
…and my *conviction*.
My conviction to be the one and only…
— to be *his* one and only —
BIG FRIEND

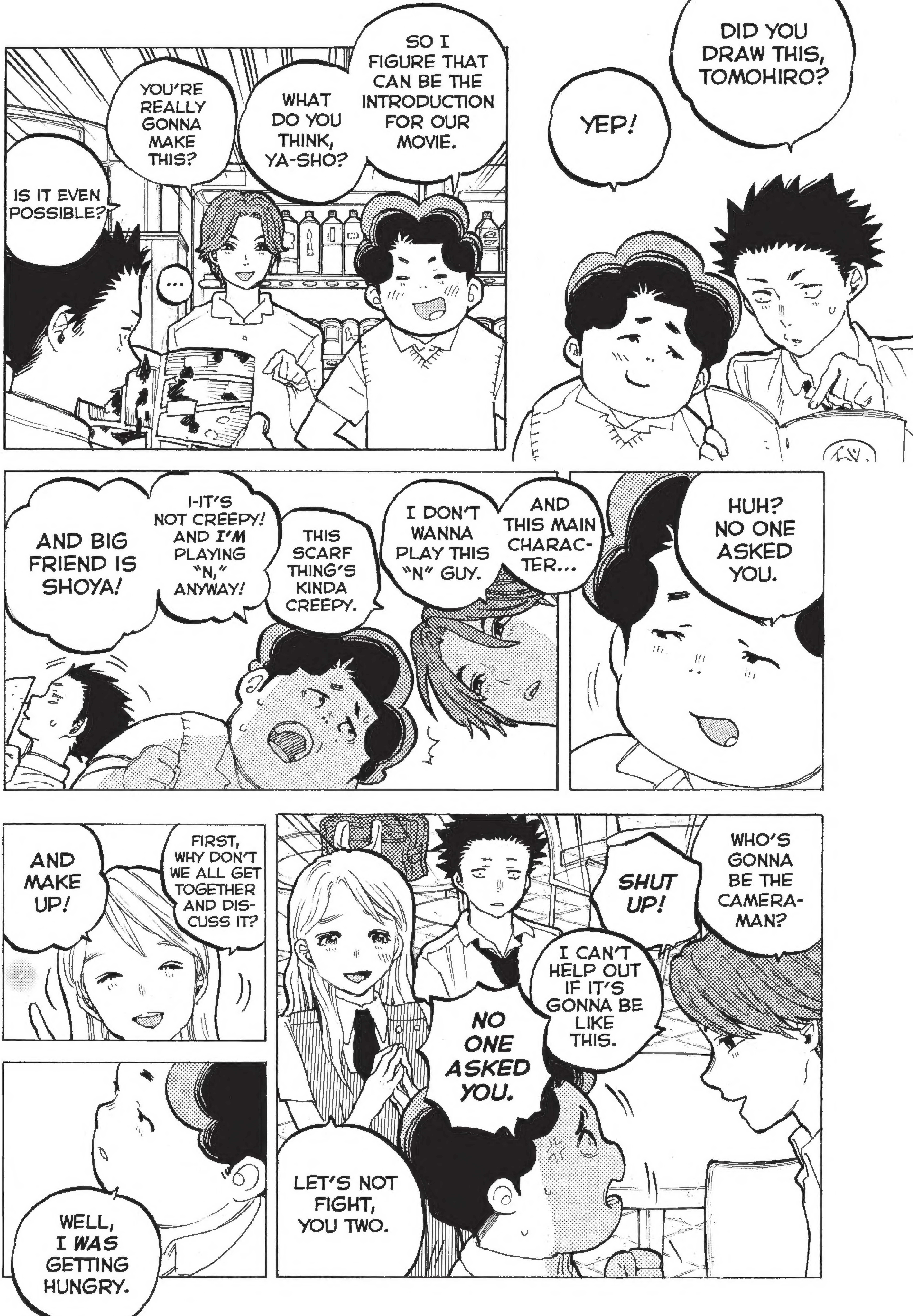
I smell danger!
HEY, A CAR JUST WHEN WE NEED ONE!
LET'S TAKE IT!
HA HA HA
My beloved car, Cathy!
That cat!! Can it be?!
WHAT THE—?!
NYAGAA

CAT GIRL!
miaooow
I FOUND YOU, "N"!
THIS IS THE END FOR YOU!

WHY DON'T YOU BORROW...
...MY CAR?
VROOOM

That's when I knew...
"Yes, this man is my big friend."
秘

CHAPTER 33: BIG FRIEND "N"


DID YOU DRAW THIS, TOMOHIRO?
YEP!
SO I FIGURE THAT CAN BE THE INTRODUCTION FOR OUR MOVIE.
WHAT DO YOU THINK, YA-SHO?
YOU'RE REALLY GONNA MAKE THIS?
IS IT EVEN POSSIBLE?
...
HUH? NO ONE ASKED YOU.
AND THIS MAIN CHARACTER...
I DON'T WANNA PLAY THIS "N" GUY.
THIS SCARF THING'S KINDA CREEPY.
I-IT'S NOT CREEPY! AND *I'M* PLAYING "N," ANYWAY!
AND BIG FRIEND IS SHOYA!
WHO'S GONNA BE THE CAMERAMAN?
SHUT UP!
I CAN'T HELP OUT IF IT'S GONNA BE LIKE THIS.
NO ONE ASKED YOU.
LET'S NOT FIGHT, YOU TWO.
FIRST, WHY DON'T WE ALL GET TOGETHER AND DISCUSS IT?
AND MAKE UP!
WELL, I *WAS* GETTING HUNGRY.

WE'LL RECONVENE AT YA-SHO'S PLACE!
GOT IT!
HUH?!
I-I'LL WARN YOU NOW; I CAN'T PITCH IN THAT MUCH!
AND WE HAVE A TEST NEXT WEEK!
DON'T YOU REMEMBER?
DON'T WORRY. WE DON'T START FILMING UNTIL SUMMER VACATION.
BUT I'VE GOT STUFF TO DO THIS SUMMER, TOO.
LIKE STUDYING AND MY JOB...
GET TOO HUNG UP ON THE SMALL THINGS AND YOU'LL LOSE FRIENDS. FRIENDS LIKE ME, FOR ONE! HEH HEH!
JUST BEAR WITH IT FOR TODAY, OKAY, SHOYA?
COME ON. LET'S GO.
HUH?!!
Y-YOU'RE COMING, TOO, MIKI?!
I'M A MEMBER, TOO, AREN'T I?
OF COURSE I'M COMING!
YOU ARE?!
HAIR MAKE ISHIDA

WELCOME HOME!
NAOKA ?!!!
WHAT'RE YOU DOING HERE?!
YOUR MOM LET ME IN. WHY?

DIDN'T I SAY I WAS GONNA COME WHETHER YOU INVITED ME OR NOT?
D-DID YOU?
I INVITED HER, SHOYA.
I MEAN, NAO'S A MEMBER OF THE FILM CREW, TOO...
RIGHT?
IS SHE?
COME TO THINK OF IT, I HAVEN'T SEEN HER SINCE THEN...
SHE'S ACTING SURPRISINGLY NORMAL CONSIDERING WHAT HAPPENED...
!
OH YEAH, DIDN'T SHOKO GIVE HER A LETTER? I WONDER IF SHE READ IT...
DID YOU READ THAT LETTER?
ALTHOUGH I GET THE FEELING...
HOW DO YOU KNOW ABOUT IT?
WHAT'S IT GOT TO DO WITH YOU?
SHE MIGHT SNAP IF I ASK...
GO ON, NAO!
OKAY.
?

I'M SORRY FOR SNAPPING AT YOU THE OTHER DAY, OKAY?
I TOTALLY, YOU KNOW, FEEL BAD ABOUT WHAT I DID...
O-OH, IT'S COOL. NO BIGGIE...
AND I AM THE ONE WHO MADE YOU ANGRY...
HEH HEH...
PHEW THANK GOODNESS.
NEXT TIME, I'LL APOLOGIZE TO SHOKO FOR REAL, TOO, OKAY?
HA HA...
IS THAT REALLY A GOOD IDEA?
WHY'S THERE A FOREIGNER IN YOUR HOUSE, SHOYA?
HUH? OH, SHE'S MY SISTER'S KID!
HER DAD IS BRAZILIAN...
WHAT? THEN YOU'RE ALREADY AN UNCLE, SHOYA? WOW!

NOW, LET'S GET EVERYTHING STRAIGHT!
WE HAVE SEVEN PARTICIPATING MEMBERS.
FIRST, WE HAVE TOMOHIRO THE DIRECTOR AND SHOYA THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR.
YUZURU IS LENDING US HER CAMERA, AND MIYOKO IS HANDLING THE COSTUMES.
WHICH LEAVES ME, NAO, AND OUR LEADING MAN SATOSHI.
...
AND IF WE WIN, WE'LL ALL SPLIT THE PRIZE MONEY.
IS THAT RIGHT SO FAR, TOMOHIRO?
YES...
HUH? SEVEN?
IS THAT ALL?
OH, WE NEED SOMEONE FOR THE MUSIC!
OH, YEAH!
I FOUND SOME GOOD FREE SONGS TO USE, SO THE MUSIC'S COVERED.

I-I HAVE A FRIEND WHO DOES MUSIC!
WHY DON'T WE ASK THEM?!
THEN, I'LL PUT THEM DOWN FOR NOW!
THE MUSIC'S COVERED ...
THAT BRINGS US TO EIGHT MEMBERS.
EIGHT ...
...
...!
HEY, COME TO THINK OF IT...
SHOK-
SO IS THIS, LIKE, OUR SCRIPT THING?
AH!
LET'S SEE... "BIG FR... FRIEND 'N'"?
...
WE NEED ONE MORE PERSON, DON'T YOU THINK?
HUH? WHO COULD THAT BE?
HEY, HAVE YOU READ THIS, KAWAI-CCHI?

HMM? SURE, I READ IT.
DOESN'T THIS CHARACTER *REALLY* RESEMBLE ME?
HAHA! I THOUGHT SO, TOO!
JUST YOUR IMAGINATION.
AND THESE GUYS RESEMBLE SOME FRIENDS OF MINE, TOO.
THIS IS SHOYA, ISN'T IT?
HEY, YOU'RE RIGHT.
CAN WE EVEN MAKE THIS?
I SAID THE SAME THING.
"YOU'RE REALLY GONNA MAKE THIS?"
HUH?
THEN LET'S THINK UP A NEW SCRIPT.
OH, THEN LET'S LET SHOKO DO THAT PART...
WANT ME TO WRITE IT?
OUR CONCEPT WAS A REVENGE STORY WITH FANTASY ELEMENTS, RIGHT?
INCLUDING FAIRIES.
I WANNA DESIGN THE FAIRY COSTUMES!
PLEASE DON'T DECIDE THIS ON YOUR OWN.
WITH MIYOKO?
YEAH, I'LL LET HER DO THE SEWING!!
...
THEN I'LL GET STARTED RIGHT AWAY ON THE SCRIPT, OKAY?
WRITE A COOL MAIN CHARACTER FOR ME, OKAY?
HEY, WRITE ME A ROLE, TOO.
...
SURE.
WHAT KIND OF ROLE DO YOU WANT?

ISN'T THERE SOMETHING SHOKO CAN DO?
HUH? WHY ARE YOU... LOOKING AT ME LIKE THAT?
I MEAN, SHE WENT WITH US TO THE AMUSEMENT PARK...
IS WHAT I'M SAYING REALLY THAT WEIRD?

WAAAAH!!
ZOOM
?!
TOMO-HIRO?!
I-I'LL GO TALK TO HIM!
ARE YOU OKAY? TOMO-HIRO!
WHAT'S WRONG?!
Y... YA-SHO...
THE FRIENDS YOU BROUGHT ALONG ARE CHARMING INDEED...
BUT...
...THEY'RE RIFF RAFF.
MY MOVIE'S GETTING ALL MESSED UP...

YA-SHO... THIS STORY...
...IS THE STORY OF OUR FRIENDSHIP.
REMEMBER HOW YOU SAVED ME WHEN THAT GUY WAS TRYING TO STEAL MY BIKE?
IF IT HADN'T BEEN FOR THAT, WE NEVER WOULD'VE BECOME FRIENDS, AND I NEVER WOULD'VE DECIDED TO MAKE A MOVIE.
BUT NOW...
HEY, YA-SHO... WHY...
...DID YOU SAVE ME THAT DAY?
IF IT WAS A YEAR AGO, I PROBABLY WOULD'VE IGNORED YOU...
...BUT SEEING SHOKO AGAIN...
...MADE ME WANT TO CHANGE.

I SEE... SO SHE WAS A KEY PLAYER IN THIS STORY...
IF IT HADN'T BEEN FOR HER, WE WOULDN'T BE HERE TODAY.
YEAH.
BUT SHOKO ALONE WAS LEFT OUT OF THE MOVIE PRODUCTION TEAM...
LET'S GO, YA-SHO.
THANKS TO YOU, I GOT MY MOTIVATION BACK!
THUNK
WELCOME BACK!

I HAVE AN ANNOUNCEMENT TO MAKE.
I HAVE DECIDED TO GIVE SHOKO A ROLE AS WELL.
WE THOUGHT ABOUT THAT TOO, BUT...
WE DON'T NEED TO WORK SHOKO INTO THE MOVIE JUST BECAUSE SHE'S DISABLED, YOU KNOW.
BESIDES, WE DON'T KNOW WHAT SHE CAN DO.
SHE'LL BE THE ONE TO DECIDE...
WHAT SHE *CAN* AND CAN'T DO!
GOT THAT?!
BUT...
I'M THE DIRECTOR!

I'LL ...
... SECOND THAT.
OKAY!
ME, TOO!
LET'S ALL DO THIS TOGETHER!

MROWR
YOU GOT US!
OH, MAN!
YOU GUYS ARE #1!!
YA-SHO!
I'LL GIVE MY ALL TOWARDS MAKING WHAT I WANT!
Because this is *our* story!
No.1
No.1
No.1
HAIR MAKE ISHIDA

CHAPTER 34: I DON'T WANT TO GO

LOOK, SATOSHI!
LOOK AT THIS! ♪
HUH? WHAT IS IT?
THE SCRIPT! FOR THE MOVIE!
WOW, YOU WROTE IT ALREADY?!
LEMME SEE!

THE DIRECTOR WANTS TO KNOW WHY YOU WROTE A SCRIPT, MIKI.
...
?
HUH? DIDN'T WE ALL DECIDE I WAS GOING TO WRITE ONE THE OTHER DAY?
UH, YEAH...
GIMME THAT!
THE PROTAGONIST IS TOO EFFEMINATE AND UNCOOL.
VERY WELL. FIRST OFF, THE PROTAGONIST NEEDS MORE BODY HAIR.
BODY HAIR?
HE SHOULD BE MORE MANLY.
WOW, THAT'S GREAT, TOMOHIRO! YOUR CRITICISM IS SO SHARP!
HOW CAN WE MAKE IT BETTER?
ALL RIGHT. I'LL TRY TO FIX IT!

WHAP
YA-SHO! THERE'S A BUTTLOAD OF WORK FOR YOU!!
WHOA!
WHY DON'T WE JUST SIT BACK AND STUDY FOR THE TEST?
HAHA! DO YOU GET THE FEELING THERE'S NOTHING FOR US TO DO?
LANGUAGE ARTS
HUH?! YOU WANT ME TO DO ALL THAT BY MYSELF?!
SCOUTING LOCATIONS! RECRUITING EXTRAS!!
GATHERING PROPS! AND MORE!
AND WHILE YOU'RE AT IT, GO REQUEST SHOKO'S COOPERATION!
OH... GOOD IDEA.
...
I'LL GIVE IT A SHOT...
DING-DONG
キーンコーン
DING-DONG
カーンコーン

AND SO I'VE BEEN SADDLED WITH THE JOB OF ERRAND BOY UNDER THE TITLE OF ASSISTANT DIRECTOR...
SO...
...AND IT'S TOTALLY COOL IF YOU SAY "NO"...
I WAS WONDERING IF MAYBE YOU'D LIKE TO PITCH IN, TOO, SHOKO.
WELL, TAKE YOUR TIME AND THINK IT OVER. NO PRESSURE.
JINGLE
...OH.

Tomohiro Nagatsuka
Hey
there's something
I need you to do for
me. By the 18th, can...
Mom

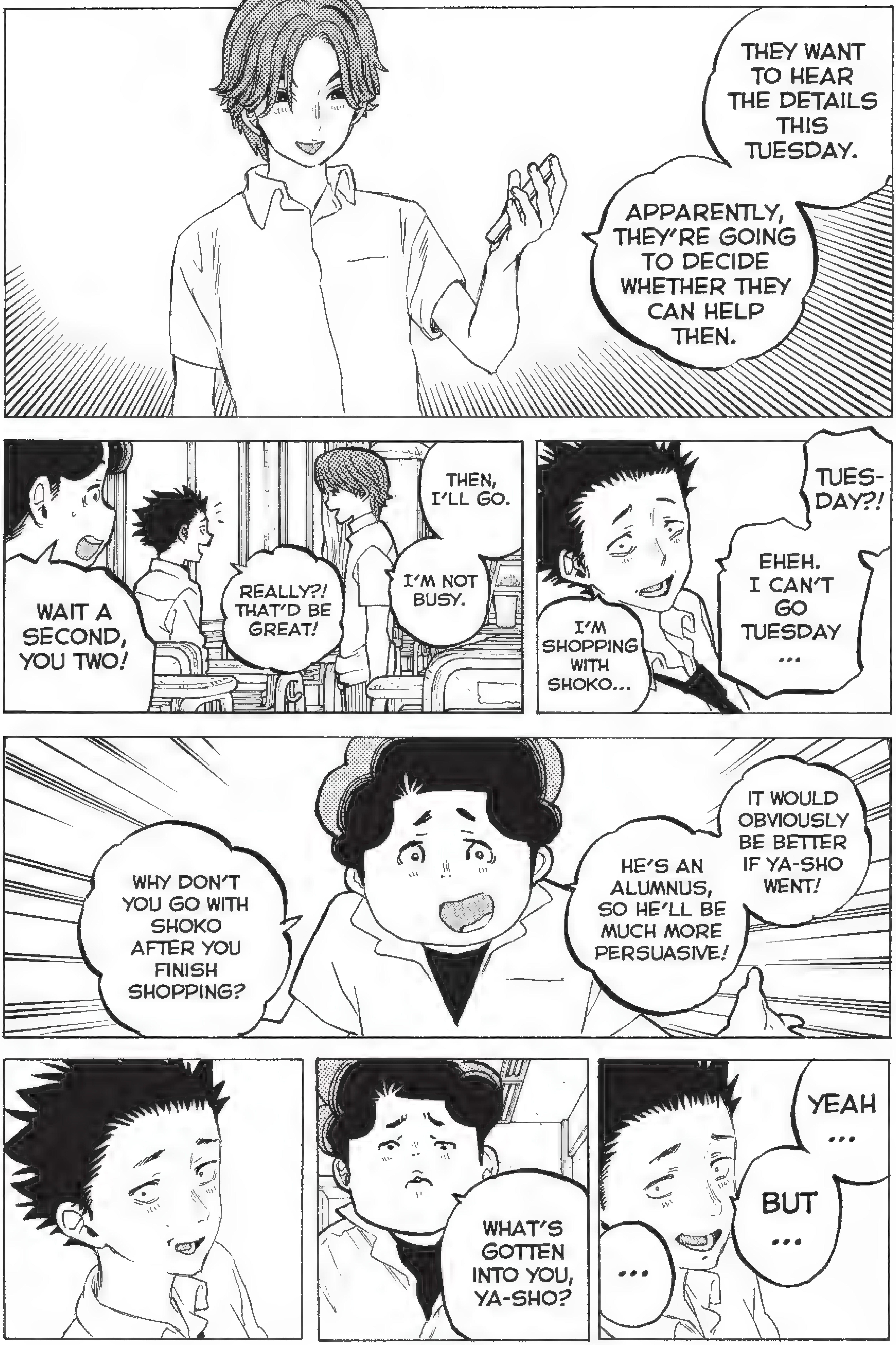
WHAT IS IT?
TOMOHIRO WANTS ME TO PICK UP A SKI MASK, KNIFE, GLOVES, ROPE, HANDCUFFS, AND DUCT TAPE BY THE 18TH.
SOUNDS PRETTY GRIM, HUH? WHAT KIND OF MOVIE IS THIS?
I WONDER IF I CAN FIND ALL THAT AT THE HARDWARE STORE?
YOU PROBABLY SHOULDN'T BUY THEM ALL AT ONCE.
HEY, SHO SAYS SHE'LL HELP YOU SHOP FOR PROPS.
HUH?! REALLY?!
THANKS, SHOKO!
THEN, NEXT TUESDAY—

OH!
SOR-RY!
FOR GETTING SO GRABBY...
WELP, I'D BETTER GET GOING.
I'M SUCH A CREEP!
HUH? YOU'RE LEAVIN' ALREADY?
YEAH. ACTUALLY, WE'RE IN THE MIDDLE OF EXAMS RIGHT NOW...
I'LL TEXT YOU LATER, SHOKO!!
BUZZ
BUZZ
BUZZ

WASN'T IT NICE...
...OF SHOYA TO ASK IN PERSON WHEN HE COULD HAVE JUST TEXTED YOU...
...SIS?
48
(5)
GOT A SECOND, YA-SHO?
WHAT IS IT?
KRUNCH

I WANT TO FILM AT AN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL. MIND GETTING PERMISSION FOR ME?
EL...
...
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL? MINE?!
YEAH.
NO WAY!
WHY NOT?!
POP!
"WHY NOT?"
...
MORNING!
...
WOW, SO WE'RE GONNA FILM AT AN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL.
WANT ME TO CHECK WITH MINE?

HELLO? SORRY TO BOTHER YOU, BUT MY NAME IS SATOSHI. I'M A FORMER STUDENT.
B... BOY, HE DOESN'T MESS AROUND, HUH?
...
OH, I SEE. THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME.
SORRY, THEY SAID NO.
ALL RIGHT, NOW IT'S YOUR TURN, YA-SHO.
WHAT?
WHICH SCHOOL DID YOU GO TO?
I'LL LOOK UP THE NUMBER FOR YOU.
S... SUIMON.
BEEP
HELLO? SORRY TO BOTHER YOU...
...


THEY WANT TO HEAR THE DETAILS THIS TUESDAY.
APPARENTLY, THEY'RE GOING TO DECIDE WHETHER THEY CAN HELP THEN.
TUES-DAY?!
EHEH. I CAN'T GO TUESDAY...
I'M SHOPPING WITH SHOKO...
THEN, I'LL GO.
I'M NOT BUSY.
REALLY?! THAT'D BE GREAT!
WAIT A SECOND, YOU TWO!
IT WOULD OBVIOUSLY BE BETTER IF YA-SHO WENT!
HE'S AN ALUMNUS, SO HE'LL BE MUCH MORE PERSUASIVE!
WHY DON'T YOU GO WITH SHOKO AFTER YOU FINISH SHOPPING?
YEAH...
BUT...
...
WHAT'S GOTTEN INTO YOU, YA-SHO?

IT'S NOTHING...
...YEAH, OF COURSE IT'S NOT NOTHING.
PLENTY OF THINGS HAPPENED...
PLENTY.
PLENTY.
ARE YOU SURE YOU DON'T MIND ME TAGGING ALONG?
OH, NO! YOU'RE A BIG HELP! I FEEL A LOT BETTER WITH YOU HERE!
DON'T YOU, SHOKO?!
SMILE

BIVA home center
HEY, I FOUND ROPE!
GLOVES!
WOW, I DIDN'T THINK THEY'D HAVE HANDCUFFS.
WE CAN GET A KNIFE AT THE DOLLAR STORE, SO...
I GUESS ALL THAT LEAVES IS THE SKI MASK.
WE'RE SENIORS. DO WE REALLY HAVE TIME FOR THIS?
I'M WORRIED ABOUT TOMOHIRO'S FUTURE.
YEAH, BUT...
AS SOMEONE WHO CALLS ALL THE SHOTS, TOMOHIRO'S PROBABLY GOT THE CLEAREST VISION OF THE FUTURE, DON'T YOU THINK?
AHAHA, IT DOES SEEM LIKE HE MIGHT REALLY BECOME A DIRECTOR.
COME TO THINK OF IT, WHAT ARE YOUR PLANS FOR THE FUTURE, SHOYA?
I PLAN TO GO TO WHATEVER COLLEGE IN THE AREA I CAN GET INTO. BUT AFTER THAT, NO CLUE...
I'M GOING SOMEWHERE WITH AN EDUCATION DEPARTMENT!
WOW, SO YOU'RE GOING TO BE A TEACHER? WHY?

MY CLASSMATES ARE GETTING MARRIED AND THEY'RE GONNA HAVE KIDS SOON.
WHOA, THAT'S FAST.
I KNOW, RIGHT?
AND I GOT TO THINKING HOW GREAT IT'D BE IF I COULD BE A HOMEROOM TEACHER TO THOSE KIDS.
OH, I SEE...
HUH?
WAIT, WHERE'S SHOKO?
SHOKO!
SHOKO!
RATTLE RATTLE
SHOKO ?!!!!!

PFFT
HA
SHOKO! THAT'S HILARIOUS!
HA HA HA
...
UH-OH, DID WE PISS HER OFF?!
HEY, SHOKO, DO I LOOK COOL?!
WHUMP
HA HA HA
MAN... SATOSHI IS SUCH A GOOD GUY...

THAT JUST LEAVES LOCATION-SCOUTING AND BUYING A KNIFE AT THE DOLLAR STORE.
WE'LL GO TO THE SCHOOL, SO DO YOU MIND RUNNING TO THE DOLLAR STORE FOR US, SHOKO?
...COME WITH US?
IF WE WENT TOGETHER... IT'D TAKE... YEAH, TAKE LONGER, SO...
LET'S SPLIT UP FOR NOW AND REGROUP LATER!
SEE YA.
I DON'T THINK SHOKO HAS GOOD MEMORIES OF THIS SCHOOL, YOU KNOW?
IS THAT SO?
I USED TO PLAY AT THIS PARK ALL THE TIME.
WHAT, YOU'RE LEAVING ALREADY?
EEK! EEK!
IT *IS* A NICE PARK, HUH?
YOU CAN'T LEAVE!
BUT MY CURFEW IS...
THEN WHO'S GONNA WATCH OUR BAGS?!
COME ON! HOLD THEM *UP*! THEY'LL GET *DIRTY*!

...
TAG, YOU'RE IT!
EEK!
EEK!
WHAM

YANK
YANK
THUD
THUD
WHAT ?!
HUH ?
WHAT THE HECK?!
WHAM
EEK ?!
WH... WHAT'S YOUR PROBLEM ?!
...
WHAT THE HECK ARE YOU DOING ?!

CARRY YOUR OWN BAGS.

LET'S HURRY, SHOYA.
...
I JUST HAVE TO STEP IN WHEN I SEE THAT SORT OF THING.
...SINCE I USED TO BE THE ONE HOLDING THE BAGS.

IS...
...IS THAT SO...?
I WAS ALWAYS THE ONE MAKING PEOPLE CARRY MINE.
I WANTED TO TELL HIM THAT...
...BUT FOR SOME REASON... COULDN'T BRING MYSELF TO SAY IT.
UGH...
MY STOMACH HURTS...
I DON'T...
I DON'T WANT TO GO...
...BACK TO SCHOOL.

a Silent Voice

CHAPTER 35: RESPECTABLE

WE'RE HERE.
LET'S GO.
SUIMON ELEMENTARY

FACULTY OFFICE
EXCUSE US!
I'M SATOSHI. I CALLED LAST WEEK.
I HOPE WE CAN WORK SOMETHING OUT TODAY.
HELLO.
GLANCE
SORRY TO BOTHER YOU WHEN YOU'RE BUSY.
HERE IS THE SCRIPT. WOULD YOU MIND LOOKING IT OVER?
THIS IS THE SCENE WE WANT TO FILM HERE.

HEY, AREN'T YOU SHOYA?
M- MI-

OH, IS HE A FORMER STUDENT OF YOURS, MR. TAKEUCHI?
HE SURE IS.
THEN WHY DON'T YOU LOOK OVER HIS SCRIPT INSTEAD?
VERY WELL.
THANKS FOR YOUR HELP, SIR!
ペコ
BOW
KREEK
...

SHOYA, ARE YOU ATTENDING TOCHI HIGH?
THAT'S *AMAZING*!
YOU SURE GREW INTO A RESPECTABLE YOUNG MAN!
5年生 国語
5年生 社会科
THAT'S THEIR UNIFORM, RIGHT?
ACTUALLY, I WENT TO TOCHI, TOO!
MAN, IT MUST'VE TAKEN A LOT OF STUDYING FOR YOU TO GET IN.
IS HE THAT DIFFERENT FROM WHEN HE WAS A KID?
YEAH, HE USED TO BE ONE OF THOSE BRATS THAT SPENT ALL THEIR TIME KILLING BUGS.

RIGHT?
...
SMILE
...
ABOUT THE SCHOOL SCENE ON PAGE TWO...
WE WANT TO FILM IT OVER SUMMER VACATION. WHAT DO YOU THINK?
WELL, ME READING IT WON'T HELP MUCH, SINCE IT'LL ULTIMATELY BE UP TO THE PRINCIPAL OR VICE PRINCIPAL, SO I'LL MAKE A COPY.
WE'LL GIVE YOU AN ANSWER BEFORE THE END OF THE WEEK.
THANK YOU, SIR!
BEEP BEEP
WHRRR
...

WELL, IF YOU GREW INTO SUCH A FINE YOUNG MAN, MAYBE...
...ALL THAT TROUBLE BACK IN SIXTH GRADE WAS A GOOD THING.
IT WASN'T A GOOD THING.
DIE
IDIOT
SCUMBAG
BALDY
WHAT WAS SO GOOD ABOUT IT?
AND HOW CAN YOU EVEN TELL...
...I TURNED INTO A FINE YOUNG MAN TO BEGIN WITH?
FROM SEEING MY UNIFORM?
YOU THINK YOU CAN FIGURE ME OUT FROM MY CLOTHES?
I DON'T THINK...
...I GREW INTO A FINE YOUNG MAN.
AND I DON'T WANT TO THINK SO EITHER.

WHRRRRR
WHRRRRR
OH, DON'T BE SO HARD ON YOURSELF.
TO BE HONEST WITH YOU, THAT CLASS DREW THE SHORT STRAW. IT WAS UNAVOIDABLE THAT THERE'D BE A LITTLE TROUBLE.
...WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "SHORT STRAW"?
YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN, RIGHT? *THAT DEAF GIRL.*
THERE ARE A LOT OF PEOPLE OUT THERE LIKE THAT—PEOPLE WHO THINK IT'S OKAY TO ABUSE THEIR STATUS AND BE A BURDEN ON OTHERS.
I HEARD HER FAMILY PULLED THE SAME TRICK AT HER LAST SCHOOL, THEN TRANSFERRED HER HERE. NOT THAT IT WENT WELL, ANYWAY.
IF I HADN'T SUGGESTED SHE TRANSFER TO ONE OF THOSE SPECIAL SCHOOLS, THEY PROBABLY NEVER WOULD HAVE NOTICED...
THUNK
...THAT THEY WERE CONFUSING "FREEDOM" WITH "TAKING LIBERTIES."
BUT, WELL...
YOU SEE A LOT OF THAT.
YOU WERE JUST UNLUCKY, SHOYA.
HERE.

DO YOU MEAN SHOKO?
YOU KNOW HER?
YES.
THIS GIRL MIKI IS FRIENDS WITH HER, AND WE ALL HANG OUT TOGETHER.
DID SOMETHING HAPPEN TO HER?
OH, MIKI, HUH? THAT TAKES ME BACK.
IT'S SO LIKE MIKI TO STAY IN TOUCH.
SHOKO WAS...
BULLIED.
SHE WAS A PITIFUL LITTLE GIRL.

...UHH, I JUST CAN'T DEAL WITH THIS GUY...
I CAN'T STAND ...
SHE WAS A VERY HARD-WORKING AND SWEET GIRL, BUT...
...THIS GUY.
WHAT WOULD A JERK WHO CHANGES HIS OPINION OF SOMEONE BASED ONLY ON THEIR CLOTHES...
...KNOW ABOUT SHOKO?
WELL, I CAN'T GET TOO SPECIFIC, BUT...
...WHEN I WASN'T AROUND, PEOPLE BROKE HER HEARING AIDS...
...AND WERE VIOLENT TO HER.
I WANT TO LEAVE.
EVERYONE WHO PRETENDED NOT TO SEE IT IS JUST AS GUILTY, RIGHT?
LET'S JUST GO, SATOSHI.
AND BECAUSE OF THAT, SHOYA RAN INTO SOME TROUBLE AS WELL...
BUT LOOK AT HOW IT BECAME A STEPPING STONE FOR HIS GROWTH.
THIS ISN'T EVEN WORTH LISTENING TO.
LET'S GET OUTTA HERE.

SPLASH
DRIP
DRIP
DRIP

SA-TO-SHI!
HERE, WIPE YOURSELF OFF, SIR.
SHO-YA.
YOU CAN'T FILM HERE.

I DON'T KNOW WHY I *EXPECTED MORE* FROM A FRIEND OF YOURS.
THAT BOY IS A *HOPELESS FOOL.*
NO, HE'S NOT.
OH?
WHO ARE YOU?
ARE YOU A FRIEND OF THESE KIDS?

OH...
...SHOKO?!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?!
ショップ
100
WHAP
WHAP
...
SHE WANTED TO COME BACK...
...AFTER ALL THIS TIME?

BOW
POKE
SHOKO.
WE COULDN'T GET PERMISSION.
LET'S GO.

カララ
RATTLE
BOW
...

SEE, YOU DID GROW INTO A FINE YOUNG MAN, AFTER ALL.
BUZZ
BUZZ
BUZZZZ
BUZZZZ

SHOYA! SHOKO!
SORRY ABOUT THAT.
IT'S ALL MY FAULT.
NO, IT'S ALL RIGHT.
I'VE GOT A BAD PERSONALITY, SO...
I COULDN'T STAND THAT TEACHER.
...RIGHT...
BUZZ
BUZZ
...YEAH.
BUZZZZZZZ
SHOKO, IF YOU RUN INTO ANYONE WHO WAS MEAN TO YOU, TELL ME.
I'LL BEAT 'EM UP FOR YOU.
...

SH-SHE SAYS SHE'S FINE.
...
OKAY.
THEN, WHY DON'T WE GET GOING?
CAUTION
180
TO BE HONEST, I THOUGHT SATOSHI...
...WAS A TERRIFYING GUY.

BUT I WAS ALSO A LITTLE JEALOUS.
BECAUSE HE DID WHAT I COULDN'T BRING MYSELF TO DO.
100
OH YEAH, IT HAD BEEN A WHILE, HUH?
WHAT IS IT? WHAT DID SHE SAY?
SHE SAID, "THE TEACHER AND THE SCHOOL LOOKED SMALLER..."
"...THAN THEY USED TO."

MAYBE ONE DAY...
...I'LL BE ABLE TO THINK THE SAME WAY.
SLAM
HUH?! YOU COULDN'T GET PERMISSION?!
YARGH! YA-SHO! SO YOU'RE RIFF RAFF, TOO?!
SORRY.
...
OH, YOU SHOULDN'T CALL PEOPLE "RIFF RAFF," TOMOHIRO.

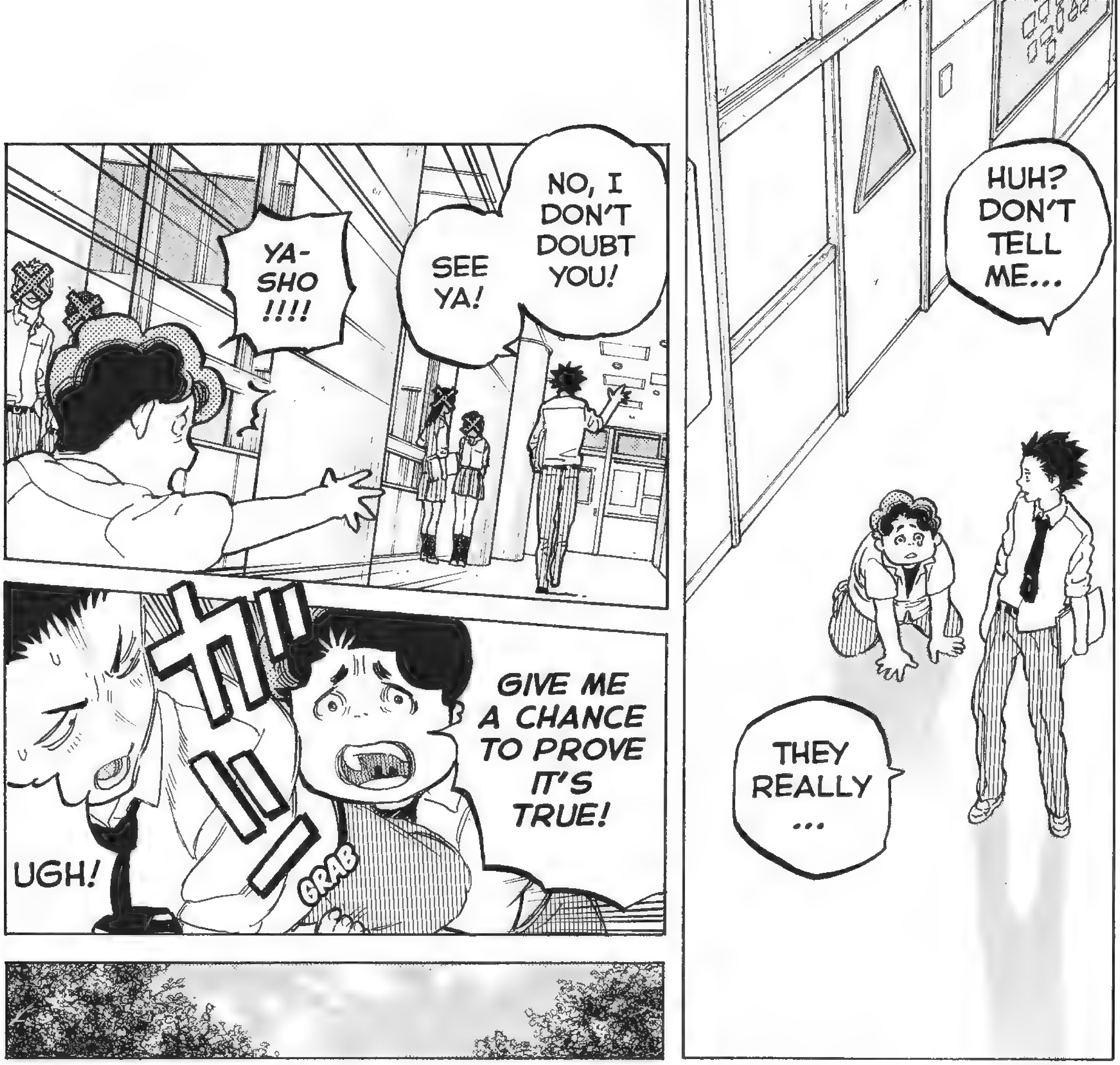
CHAPTER 36: WHAT I WANTED

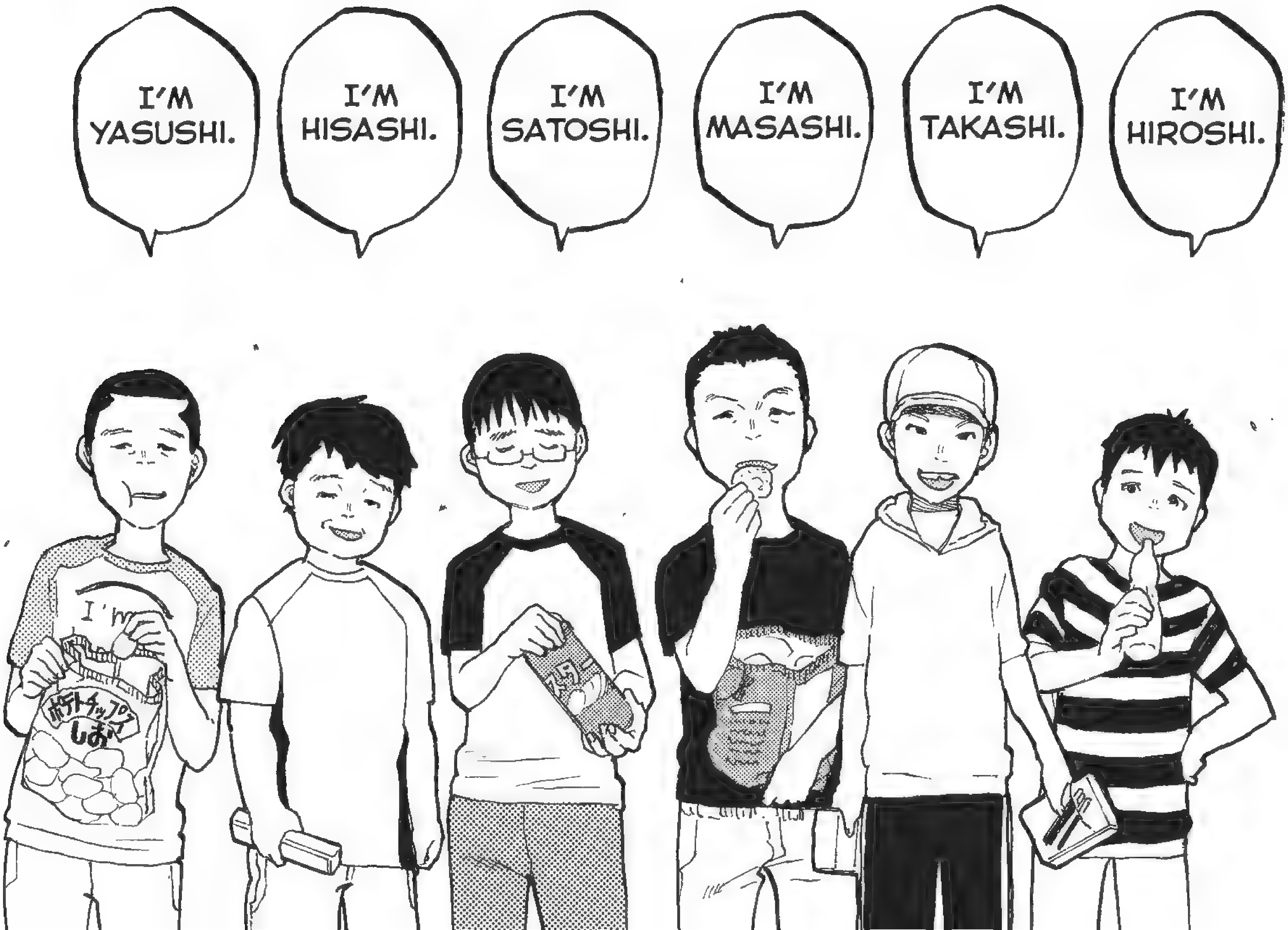
ANYONE WHO DID POORLY ON THEIR FINALS NEEDS TO STAY AFTER FOR SUPPLEMENTAL LESSONS.
YES, MA'AM
IT'S ALMOST SUMMER VACATION.
MY GRADES AREN'T IMPROVING LIKE I HAD HOPED...
A LOT'S HAPPENED LATETLY, SO I'VE BEEN BUSY...
MY JOB, SHOKO, YUZURU, MIYOKO, NAOKA...

SHOYA!
SHOYA!
SHOYA! TODAY, LET'S—
SHOYA! LUNCH TIME!
SHO! LET'S GO TO THE BATHROOM!
LEAVE IT TO ME, YA-SHO!
ABOUT THE MOVIE, YA-SHO...
YAAA-SHOO!
YA-SHO!
YA-SHO! YA-SHO! YA-SHO! YA-SHO!

OH... WHAT IS IT?
I WANT YOU TO FIND SOME EXTRAS IN A HURRY. CAN YOU DO IT?
EXTRAS?
YEAH, ABOUT SIX.
THAT MANY?!
NO WAY! I CAN'T!
I THINK I TOLD YOU BEFORE, BUT I DON'T KNOW THAT MANY PEOPLE!
AND I'VE SERIOUSLY GOTTA GET INTO HARDCORE STUDY MODE OVER SUMMER VACATION!
WHAT ABOUT THE MOVIE?!
WHAT'S MORE IMPORTANT TO YOU?! FRIENDSHIP OR STUDYING?!
RARGH!
SILENCE

HAHA...
GIGGLE
"WHAT WAS THAT ABOUT?"
"HOW ANNOYING."
GIGGLE
I'M JUST SAYING THAT IF THE MOVIE'S THAT IMPORTANT, WHY NOT FIND THEM YOURSELF?!
Y-YOU'VE GOT LOTS OF OTHER FRIENDS, RIGHT?
DING-DONG
HUH? SURE, PLENTY.
HIROSHI, TAKASHI, MASASHI, SATOSHI, HISASHI, YASUSHI ...
DING
THEN, THAT SETTLES IT!
OH, I'VE GOTTA GET TO THE SUPPLEMENTAL LESSON.
WAIT!
WHAT NOW?!
YOU DOUBT ME, DON'T YOU?
YOU THINK HIROSHI AND THE REST ARE FICTIONAL, DON'T YOU?


HUH? DON'T TELL ME...
THEY REALLY...
NO, I DON'T DOUBT YOU!
SEE YA!
YA-SHO!!!!
ガッ
GIVE ME A CHANCE TO PROVE IT'S TRUE!
UGH!
GRAB

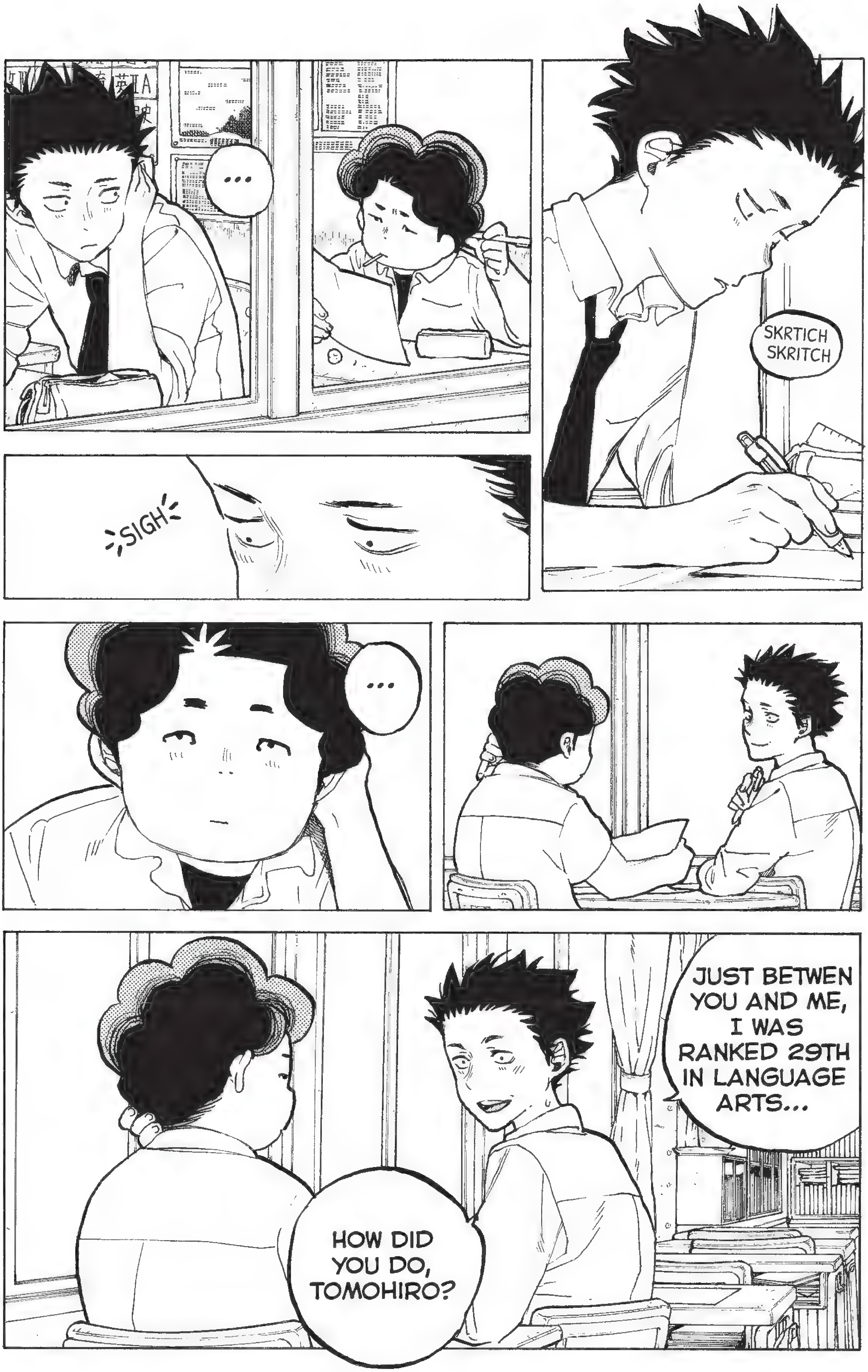

I'M HIROSHI.
I'M TAKASHI.
I'M MASASHI.
I'M SATOSHI.
I'M HISASHI.
I'M YASUSHI.
I'M
ポテトチップス しお

MUNCH
MUNCH
MUNCH
...
DID YOU BRIBE THESE KIDS WITH SNACKS?
OF COURSE NOT.
I'LL GIVE YOU ¥100* EACH IF YOU TELL ME YOUR REAL NAMES!
I'M KO-SUKE!
I'M DAIKI!
I'M YUTA!
YAAAY!
WHY DID YOU EVEN LIE ABOUT THAT?!

*¥100: AROUND $1.00

...
IF YOU DON'T HAVE FRIENDS, WHY DON'T YOU JUST MAKE A MOVIE THAT DOESN'T REQUIRE ANY?
D-DON'T TALK TO ME LIKE THAT!
I ALLOWED SHOKO TO PARTICIPATE IN THE MOVIE, DIDN'T I?!
YOU *ALLOWED* HER TO PARTICIPATE?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "ALLOWED"?!
IS THAT ANY WAY TO TALK ABOUT A FRIEND?!
I-I CONSIDER HER A FRIEND!
BUT THAT'S BECAUSE SHE'S IMPORTANT TO YOU, YA-SHO!

ANYWAY, I CAN'T...
...PUT UP WITH YOUR TOUGH-GUY ACT, TOMOHIRO.
YA-SHO!
I'M GOING TO WORK.
THAT WAS KIND OF EMBARRASSING, TOMOHIRO.
EVERYONE WAS LAUGHING.
"E..."
"EMBARRASSING"?
MAYBE THAT WAS A LITTLE HARSH?
SUPPLEMENTAL LESSONS
QUIET!


SKRTICH SKRITCH
...
SIGH
...
JUST BETWEN YOU AND ME, I WAS RANKED 29TH IN LANGUAGE ARTS...
HOW DID YOU DO, TOMOHIRO?

HEY, EYES FORWARD, NUMBER TWENTY-NINE.
WE DON'T HAVE TIME FOR CHITCHAT, DO WE?
SNICKER SNICKER SNICKER SNICKER
WHAT THE HECK?
WHAT THE HECK, MAN?!
UGHHHH!
SO...
IN THE END, I DIDN'T EVEN TALK TO HIM AT THE CLOSING CEREMONY!
ALTHOUGH HE WAS KIND OF PISSED TOO, FOR SOME REASON...
I'M THE ONE WHO'S PISSED OFF HERE, YOU KNOW?!
HE'S MAKING US DO TOO MUCH!

O-OH, I'M SORRY... THIS HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH YOU, HUH, SHOKO?
A POND SNAIL!
OH, NO, I WOULDN'T SAY I "DISLIKE" HIM OR ANYTHING...
PROBABLY...
THE MOVIE?
YEAH, I WONDER WHAT'LL HAPPEN TO IT...
WHAP
IT MIGHT GET CALLED OFF...
M-MORE IMPORTANTLY... ARE YOU, LIKE...
...GOING ANYWHERE OVER SUMMER BREAK?
PERSONALLY, I DON'T HAVE ANY PLANS. I'D LIKE TO TAKE MY NIECE SOMEWHERE AND—
OH.

HMM?
?
TOMOHIRO?!
SOMETHING UP?
NOT REALLY.
I DECIDED TO HOLD THE PRODUCTION MEETINGS HERE EVERY WEEK.
HUH? YOU DIDN'T TELL ME. DON'T JUST DECIDE STUFF ON YOUR OWN.

HUH? ON MY OWN? I **AM** THE DIRECTOR, YOU KNOW.
I ONLY CAME BECAUSE SHOKO IS HERE.
WH-WHY ARE YOU ACTING SO HOSTILE?!
IF YOU DON'T LIKE IT, THEN YOU CAN SHOVE OFF.
AREN'T YOU *EMBARRASSED* BEING AROUND ME?
...
TH-THEN I DON'T HAVE TO COOPERATE ANYMORE, RIGHT?
PHEW, THAT'S ONE LESS PAIN IN THE BUTT.
WELL THEN, I'M GOING HOME. BYE, GUYS.
DON'T YOU RUN AWAY.
THERE'S STILL PLENTY OF GRUNT WORK LEFT FOR YOU TO DO.

WH-WH-WHAT'S YOUR PROBLEM?! FIRST YOU TELL ME TO SHOVE OFF, AND NOW YOU'RE TELLING ME NOT TO RUN AWAY?!
WHAP
AH!
THAT HURT...
KHHH...
AHHH! THAT HURT...
...
APOLOGIZE!
WHAM
APOLOGIZE!
WHAP WHAP WHAP WHAP WHAP
APOLOGIZE!
HEY!
WHAP
WHAP
WHAP
CUT IT OUT, MAN!

I SAID STOP!
SMACK
URK!
SHOYA, YOU JERK!
PLOP
THERE'S NO TURNING BACK NOW!!
ARGH!!
SHWOOP
HMPH!
HMPH!
WHAP
WHAP
WHAP
HMPH!
GET HIM, TOMOHIRO!
WE SHOULD STOP THEM, RIGHT?!
YEAH!
~~ ~~
~~ ~~

UH ...

GASP
...
OKAY, I GET IT...
SHOKO.
I'LL LET YOU OFF EASY TODAY, FOR HER SAKE.
HOLLY WOO
WE'LL CONTINUE THIS NEXT TUESDAY. DON'T MISS IT.
TUESDAY?
I'LL BE HERE.
SORRY WE TOOK SO LONG. EVERYBODY HERE?

HEY, SHOYA.
IT'S BREEZY HERE, HUH?
YO!
FWISH
WINK
NOD
THANKS FOR COMING, EVERYONE.
TODAY, LET'S DO OUR BEST WITHOUT GETTING TOO WILD.
I FINISHED THAT NEW DRAFT, TOMOHIRO.
LONG TIME NO SEE, YOU TWO.
THAT REMINDS ME... ARE THE DESIGNS READY YET, NAO?
NOT YET.
PLUS, ABOUT THIS HAIRSTYLE ...

DO YOU THINK YUZURU CAN PULL IT OFF?
HUH.
YOU'RE PRETTY GOOD.
YAY! YAY!
...
HEY! HOLD THIS, YA-SHO!
OH...
TEP
OKAY.
EEK! EEK!
...
WOW, WE MAY HAVE BEEN FIGHTING ABOUT SOMETHING REALLY POINTLESS.

HMM? WHAT IS IT?
HUH?
HUH?
WHAT THE HECK ARE YOU CRYING ABOUT?!
OH...
COME TO THINK OF IT, HASN'T IT BEEN A WHILE SINCE I SPENT SUMMER VACATION WITH ANYONE OTHER THAN MY FAMILY?
WHAT'S WRONG, YA-SHO?!
DID MY PUNCH HURT THAT MUCH?!
YEAH... THAT MUST BE IT.
I MAY HAVE BEEN HAPPY JUST TO HAVE SOMEONE TO FIGHT OVER POINTLESS THINGS WITH.

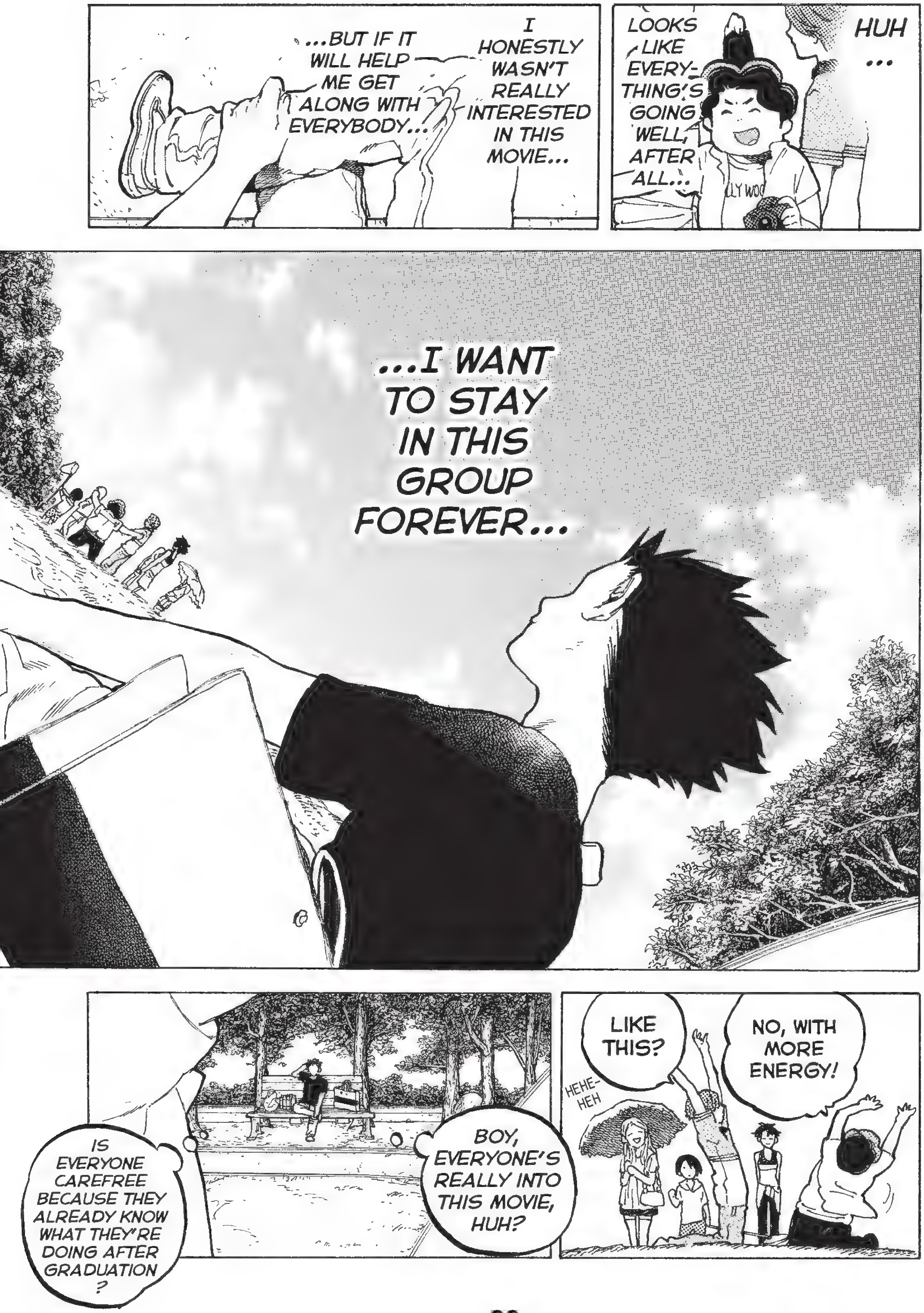
CHAPTER 37: NOW AND FOREVER

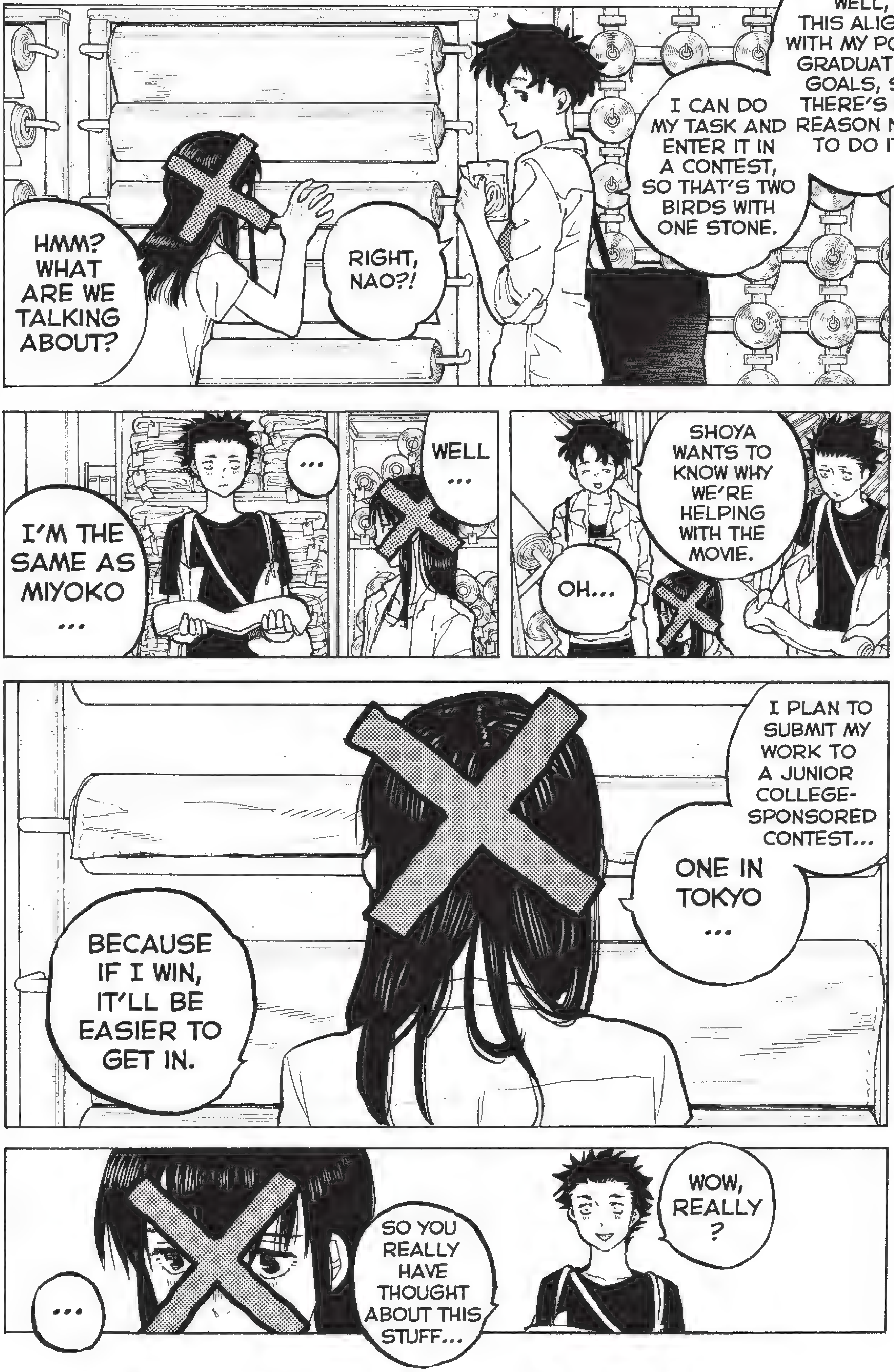
SUMMER VACATION BEGAN.
I SPENT MY TIME, AS I TEND TO DO...
B-B-BEEP KA-CHING
...WORKING, STUDYING...
...NAPPING, READING...
...AND LOOKING AFTER MY NIECE.
ガリガリ
SHK
SHK
I WONDER IF ANYONE'S GOING ANYWHERE FUN.
ガリガリ
SHK
SHK
I WONDER IF SHOKO GOES SWIMMING.
JING-A-LING

from: Miyoko Sahara
sub: This is for you
(⊃^A^)⊃Alley-Oop
THEY WENT TO THE POOL ?!
HUH ?!
KLUNK
Save Image
WHAT THE HECK, SHOKO ?!
BEEP
A to ur Line List

IT LOOKS LIKE THINGS ARE GOING WELL WITH THE MOVIE.
ミーン ミンミン
BUZZZZ
BUZZ
BUZZ
MY JOB IS SIMPLY WAITING FOR INSTRUCTIONS...
NOD
I'VE GOT NO IDEA WHAT KIND OF MOVIE WE'RE EVEN MAKING.
I WONDER...
...WHAT SHOKO ENDED UP DOING.
I WONDER IF SHE'S FITTING IN WITH EVERYONE.
OH, SHE SMILED.

…
BOW
…
"THANKS TO YOU, I'M HAVING A FUN SUMMER"?
SKRITCH SKRITCH
IS SHE TRYING TO CHEER ME UP BECAUSE I LOOK BORED?
…
THAT MAKES ME HAPPY.


HUH ...
LOOKS LIKE EVERYTHING'S GOING WELL, AFTER ALL...
I HONESTLY WASN'T REALLY INTERESTED IN THIS MOVIE...
...BUT IF IT WILL HELP ME GET ALONG WITH EVERYBODY...
...I WANT TO STAY IN THIS GROUP FOREVER...
NO, WITH MORE ENERGY!
LIKE THIS?
HEHE-HEH
BOY, EVERYONE'S REALLY INTO THIS MOVIE, HUH?
IS EVERYONE CAREFREE BECAUSE THEY ALREADY KNOW WHAT THEY'RE DOING AFTER GRADUATION ?


WELL, THIS ALIGNS WITH MY POST-GRADUATION GOALS, SO THERE'S NO REASON NOT TO DO IT.
I CAN DO MY TASK AND ENTER IT IN A CONTEST, SO THAT'S TWO BIRDS WITH ONE STONE.
RIGHT, NAO?!
HMM? WHAT ARE WE TALKING ABOUT?
SHOYA WANTS TO KNOW WHY WE'RE HELPING WITH THE MOVIE.
OH...
WELL...
...
I'M THE SAME AS MIYOKO...
I PLAN TO SUBMIT MY WORK TO A JUNIOR COLLEGE-SPONSORED CONTEST...
ONE IN TOKYO...
BECAUSE IF I WIN, IT'LL BE EASIER TO GET IN.
WOW, REALLY?
SO YOU REALLY HAVE THOUGHT ABOUT THIS STUFF...
...

TODAY'S SCHEDULE
1 MEET UP
2 3
4
TUES.
5
SCHOOL
OH NO! THIS IS HEAVIER THAN I THOUGHT!
THAT'S WHY I OFFERED TO CARRY IT!
MIKI IS PROBABLY PARTICIPATING TO BE AROUND SATOSHI, HUH?
I WONDER WHAT HE THINKS OF HER...
WHAT IS IT?
SHOYA?
OH!
YOU WERE LOOKING AT ME, WEREN'T YOU?

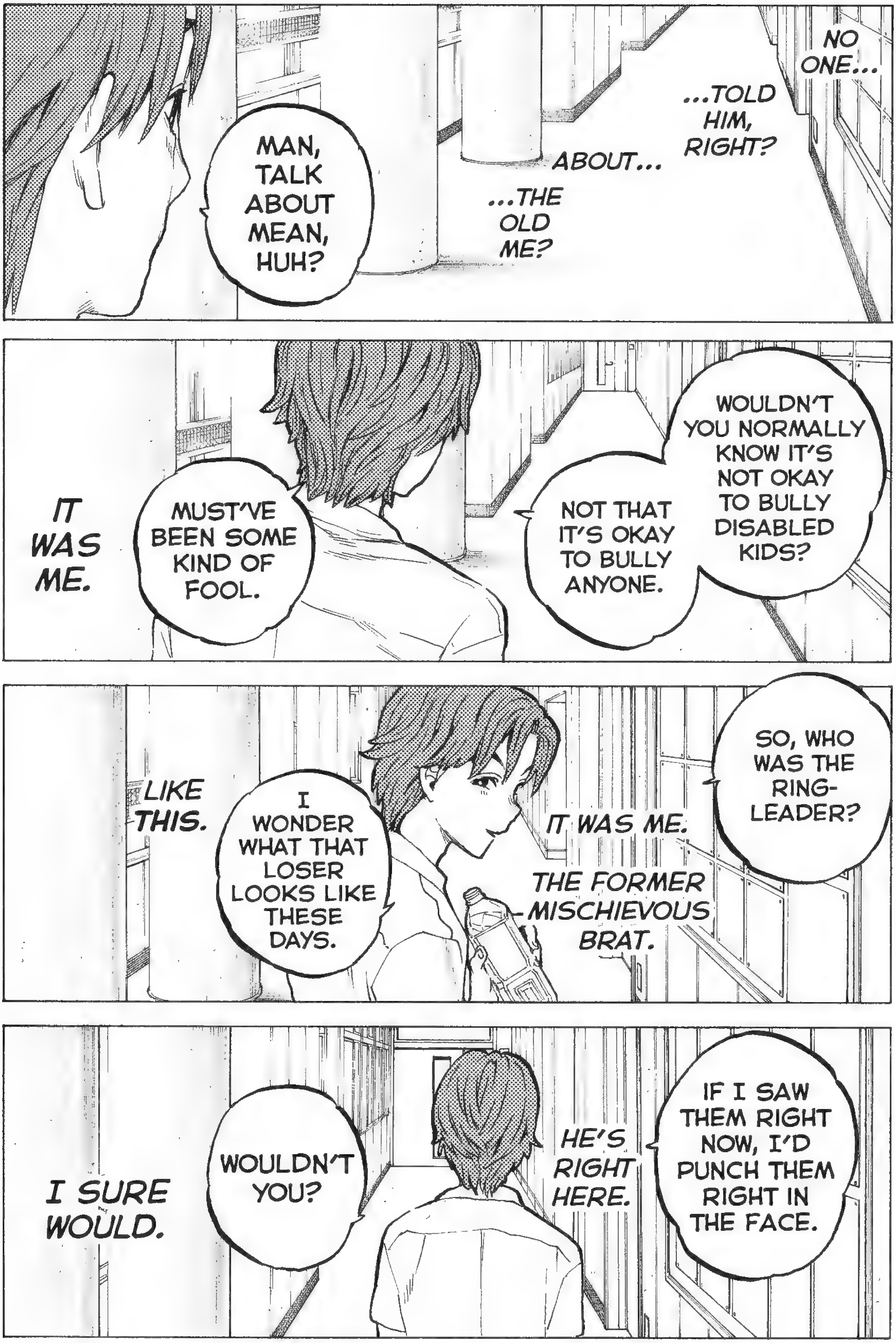
WHAT MADE YOU DECIDE TO HELP WITH THE MOVIE, SATOSHI?
I THOUGHT MAYBE...
...IT WOULD HELP ME BECOME BETTER FRIENDS WITH YOU, SHOYA...
KLUNK
O... OH.
SO THAT'S WHY...
IS THAT WEIRD?
OH, BUT OF COURSE I WANT THE PRIZE MONEY, TOO. AND MAKING THE MOVIE IS FUN.
BEEP
YEAH...

WHEN I SAW THAT PICTURE OF YOU JUMPING OFF THE BRIDGE, I WAS SHOCKED.
I COULDN'T BELIEVE THAT QUIET GUY WHO DID NOTHING BUT PART-TIME JOBS WOULD DO THAT SORT OF THING.
SO I WANTED TO TALK TO YOU RIGHT AWAY.
Y–
YOU'RE ALSO A WEIRDO IF *THAT* MADE YOU WANT TO TALK TO ME, SATOSHI.
HAHA!
YEP.
I'M A WEIRDO.
WELL, I WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN BULLIED IF I WEREN'T A LITTLE UNUSUAL.
GLUB
OH!
AHA!
WELL, YOU SURE DON'T *LOOK* IT!
SORRY!

WOW, SO YOU CAN TELL THAT SORT OF THING?
HUH?
...
TELL WHAT?
THEN, I GUESS YOU CAN TELL WHO'S MOST LIKELY TO GET BULLIED, TOO, HUH?
OH!
I...I CAN'T TELL THAT...
LIAR!
PA-KRAK
OH, COME TO THINK OF IT...

I WONDER WHY SHOKO WAS BULLIED.
IN YOUR OPINION, WAS THERE ANY REASON?
YOU WERE IN THE SAME CLASS, RIGHT?
H-HEY, LET'S TALK ABOUT SOMETHING ELSE!
OH, I KNOW!
WHAT DO YOU THINK OF, UH... MIKI?
IT LOOKS LIKE SHE'S INTERESTED IN YOU...
GLANCE
GLANCE
HUH? REALLY?
I THINK SHE'S CUTE AND ALL.
トレー
...
PAT
WAIT, WHY'D YOU CHANGE THE SUBJECT?!
COME ON! TELL ME!
...WHY IS HE ASKING ME THIS?

YOU KNOW... SHE CAN'T HEAR... SO...
... PEOPLE MADE FUN OF HER...
...
OH?
DID THEY CALL HER, LIKE, HOICHI THE EARLESS?
YEAH ...
AHA! I WAS RIGHT ?!
OH, MAN! MY HUNCH WAS RIGHT!
...
...
WAS THAT REALLY JUST A HUNCH ?


NO ONE...
...TOLD HIM, RIGHT?
ABOUT...
...THE OLD ME?
MAN, TALK ABOUT MEAN, HUH?
WOULDN'T YOU NORMALLY KNOW IT'S NOT OKAY TO BULLY DISABLED KIDS?
NOT THAT IT'S OKAY TO BULLY ANYONE.
MUST'VE BEEN SOME KIND OF FOOL.
IT WAS ME.
SO, WHO WAS THE RING-LEADER?
IT WAS ME.
THE FORMER MISCHIEVOUS BRAT.
I WONDER WHAT THAT LOSER LOOKS LIKE THESE DAYS.
LIKE THIS.
IF I SAW THEM RIGHT NOW, I'D PUNCH THEM RIGHT IN THE FACE.
HE'S RIGHT HERE.
WOULDN'T YOU?
I SURE WOULD.

YOU GUYS BETTER STAY AWAY FROM THAT SHOYA ISHIDA.
HE'S A BULLY.
IS THAT TRUE?
DID YOU REALLY MAKE SHOKO CHANGE SCHOOLS?

...
YEAH, I DID ...
SPLASH
YOU'RE THE WORST.
GET OUT OF HERE, SCUMBAG.

YOU OKAY, SHOYA?
I CALLED FOR YOU, BUT YOU WERE IN A DAZE, SO I WAS WONDERING WHAT WAS UP.
SORRY, I'M FINE ...
WHAT AM I GETTING SO WORRIED ABOUT?
IT'S NOT GOOD TO BE SO NEGATIVE...
LET'S HEAD BACK TO CLASS.
YEAH.
I'M FREAKING OUT OVER NOTHING.
NO ONE WOULD TALK ABOUT ME LIKE THAT...
DING DONG
キーンコーン
カーンコーン
DING DONG
YEAH, THAT'S RIGHT... IT'S NOTHING...

OH! YOU'RE LATE, SATOSHI!
WE WERE SUPPOSED TO READ THE SCRIPT TOGETHER DURING LUNCH!
OH, SORRY.
BUT I COULDN'T EMPATHIZE WITH THIS BULLY CHARACTER AT ALL.
YOU DON'T HAVE TO EMPATHIZE WITH THE LIKES OF HIM!
OH, YOU'VE GOT DUST ON YOU!
OH! THERE YOU ARE, YA-SHO!
LOOK AT THIS! IT'S SERIOUSLY PERFECT!
THIS COULD BE GREAT FOR THE MOVIE!
...
YA-SHO?
WHY DON'T WE GET GOING, CLASS REP?
OH, JEEZ! DON'T CALL ME THAT!

WAIT, MIKI.

WHAT IS IT?
UM ...
...
WELL, UH...
OH... I...
I'M JUST CHECKING, BUT...
...YOU HAVEN'T TOLD ANYONE ...
...ABOUT THE, UH, OLD ME, HAVE YOU?

CHAPTER 38: JUMPING AT SHADOWS

...
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
LIKE... WHEN WE WERE KIDS...
Y-YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN, RIGHT?
BACK IN SIXTH GRADE, WHEN I, UH...
...BUL– I MEAN ...
...*TEASED* SHOKO...
I HAVEN'T TOLD ANYONE...
OH, WELL, THAT'S GOOD.
HUH? HOLD ON, SHOYA. WHAT'S THIS ABOUT?
OH, I WAS JUST WONDERING. THAT'S ALL!
I MEAN, YOU TALK ABOUT THE OLD DAYS A LOT HERE, RIGHT?
LIKE, TO SATOSHI...

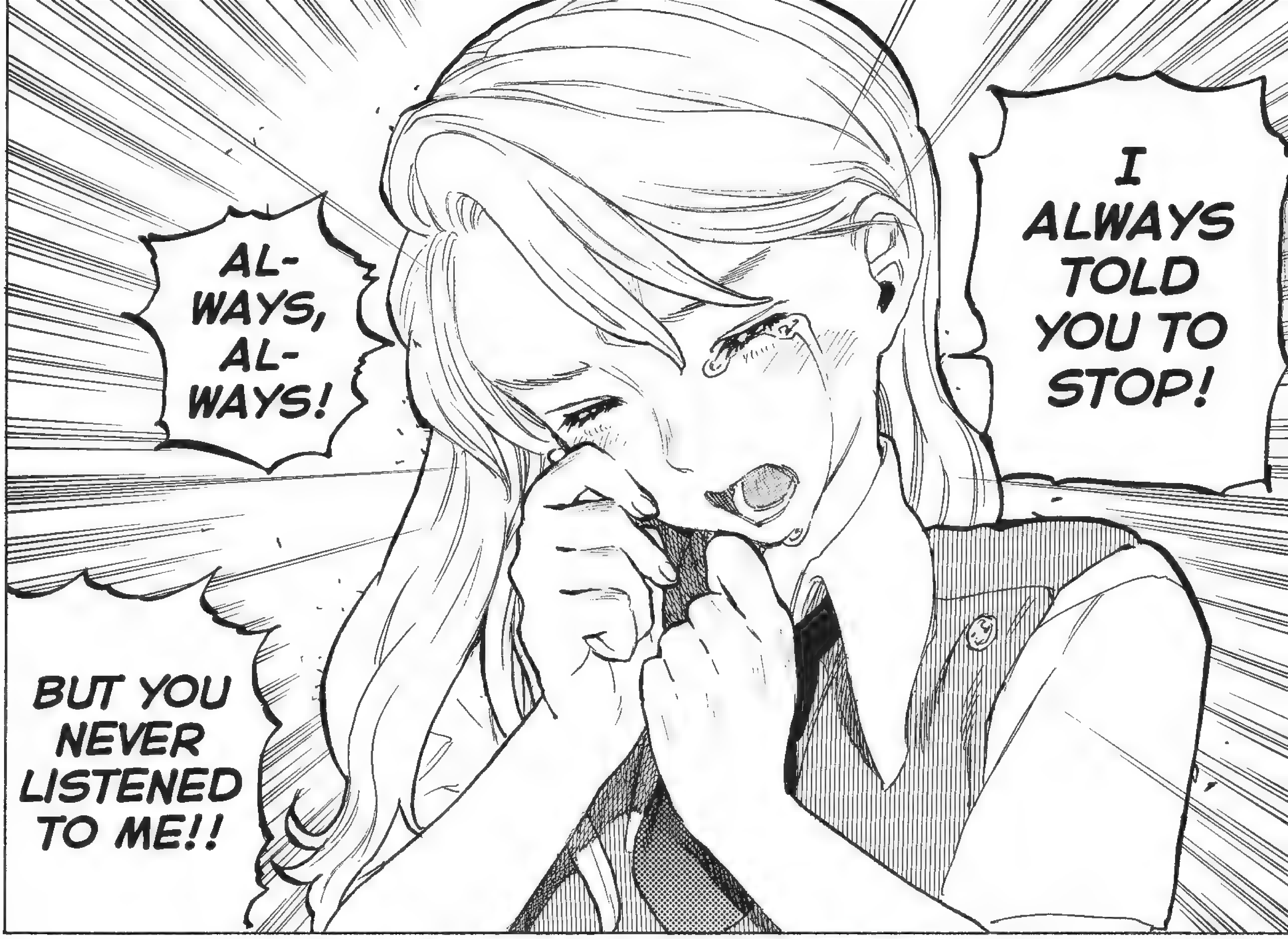
DO YOU THINK I GO AROUND RUNNING MY MOUTH ABOUT EVERYTHING?!
HEY!
NOT SO LOUD!
SHOYA, HAVE YOU *REALLY* REFLECTED ON WHAT YOU DID?
TRYING TO SILENCE ME? THAT IS SO UNCOOL.
I THINK YOU'RE A LITTLE MISTAKEN.
MASTERING SIGN LANGUAGE DOESN'T MAKE UP FOR ALL YOUR SINS, YOU KNOW?

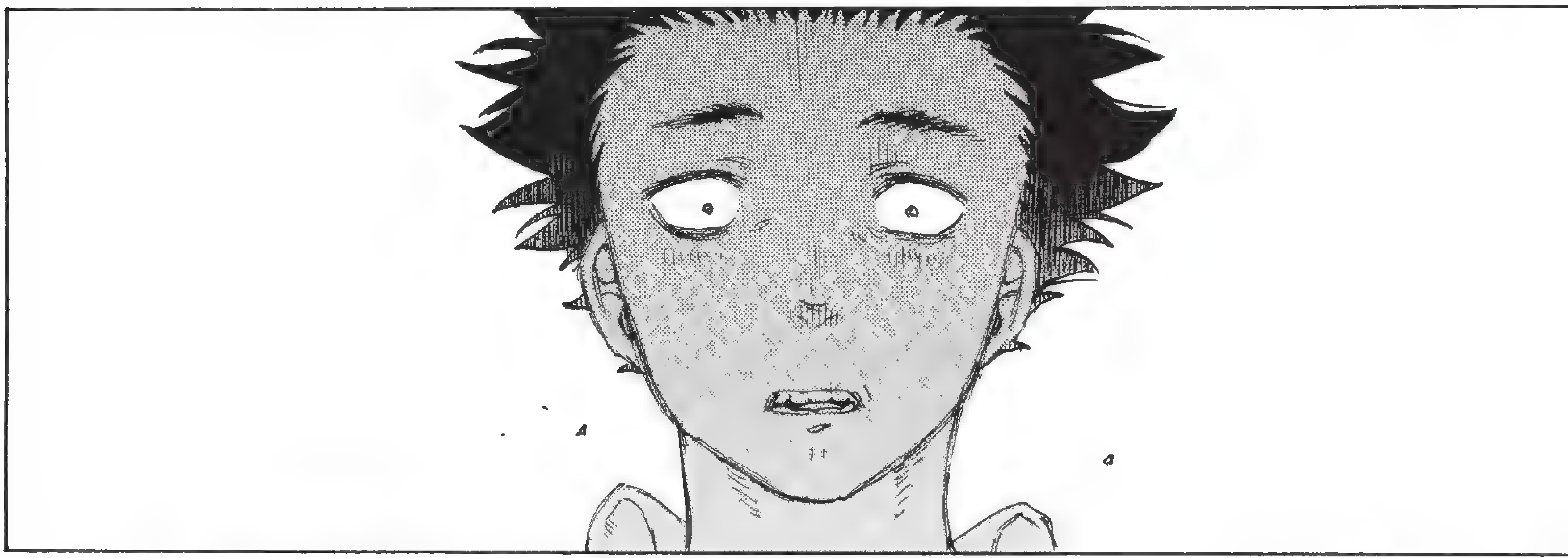
I KNOW THAT!
SHOYA...
YOU'RE SCARING ME.
WHAT'S THE MATTER, SHOYA?
SA-TOSHI!
SA-TOSHI!

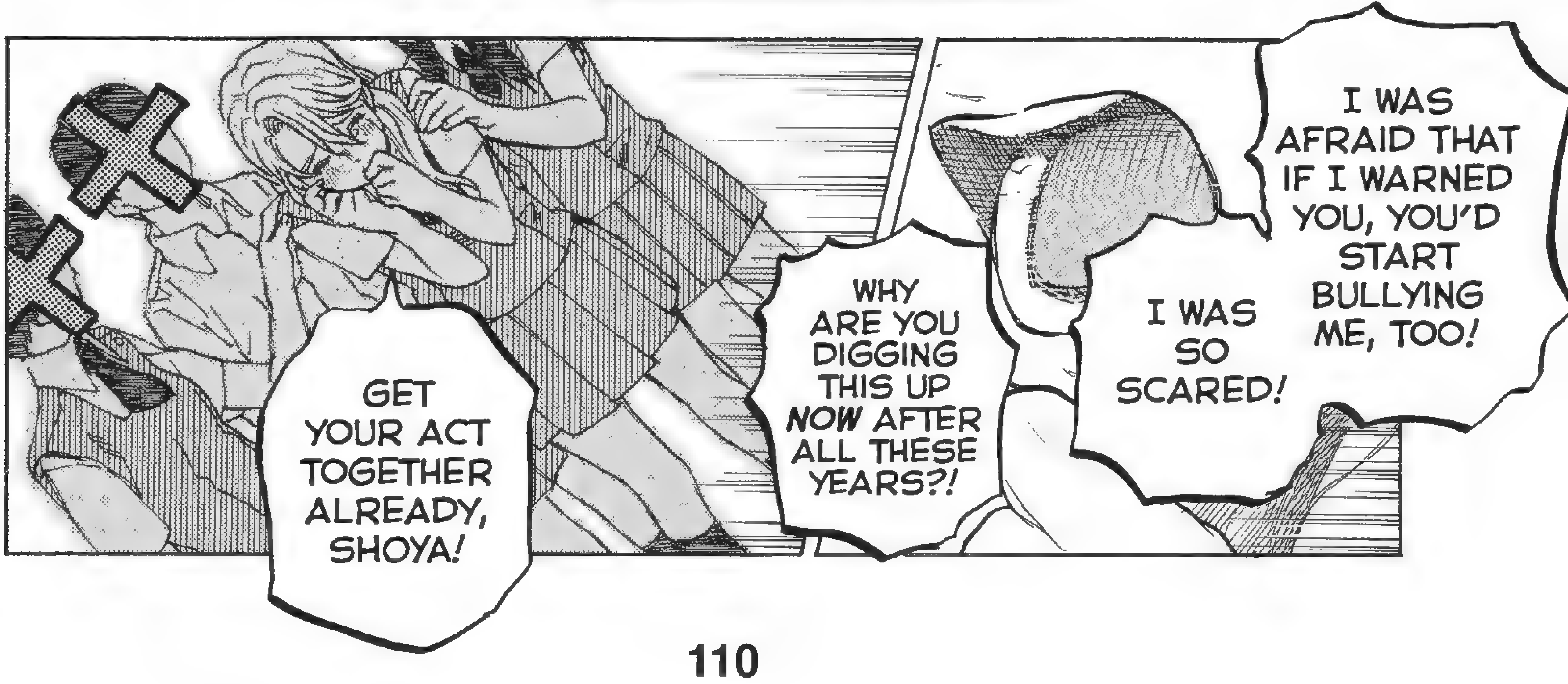
SILENCING? "SINS"?
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
IT'S NOTH...
SHOYA WAS BEHIND ALL THE BULLYING!!
ザワ
CHATTER
HE WAS VIOLENT TO... TO SHOKO AND MADE HER TRANSFER SCHOOLS!
AND HE JUST TRIED TO SCARE ME INTO KEEPING QUIET ABOUT IT!
HE THINKS HE TURNED OVER A NEW LEAF, BUT HE HASN'T!!
HE'S STILL THE SAME ON THE INSIDE!!

TH... THIS JERK!
YA-SHO ...
SHOULD I BELIEVE... WHAT MIKI SAID?

Y-
YOU BAD-MOUTHED HER, TOO, MIKI!!
WHAT GIVES YOU ANY RIGHT TO LECTURE ME?!
WHY DO YOU SAY THINGS LIKE THAT?
I DIDN'T DO ANYTHING ...
STOP LYING!
I REALLY DIDN'T DO *ANYTHING!*
I *NEVER* BAD-MOUTHED HER EVEN ONCE!!


I ALWAYS TOLD YOU TO STOP!
ALWAYS, ALWAYS!
BUT YOU NEVER LISTENED TO ME!!




I WAS AFRAID THAT IF I WARNED YOU, YOU'D START BULLYING ME, TOO!
I WAS SO SCARED!
WHY ARE YOU DIGGING THIS UP *NOW* AFTER ALL THESE YEARS?!
GET YOUR ACT TOGETHER ALREADY, SHOYA!

PLEASE, DON'T FABRICATE MEMORIES!
FACE THE TRUTH!
TEP
TEP
SHOYA!
YA-SHO!

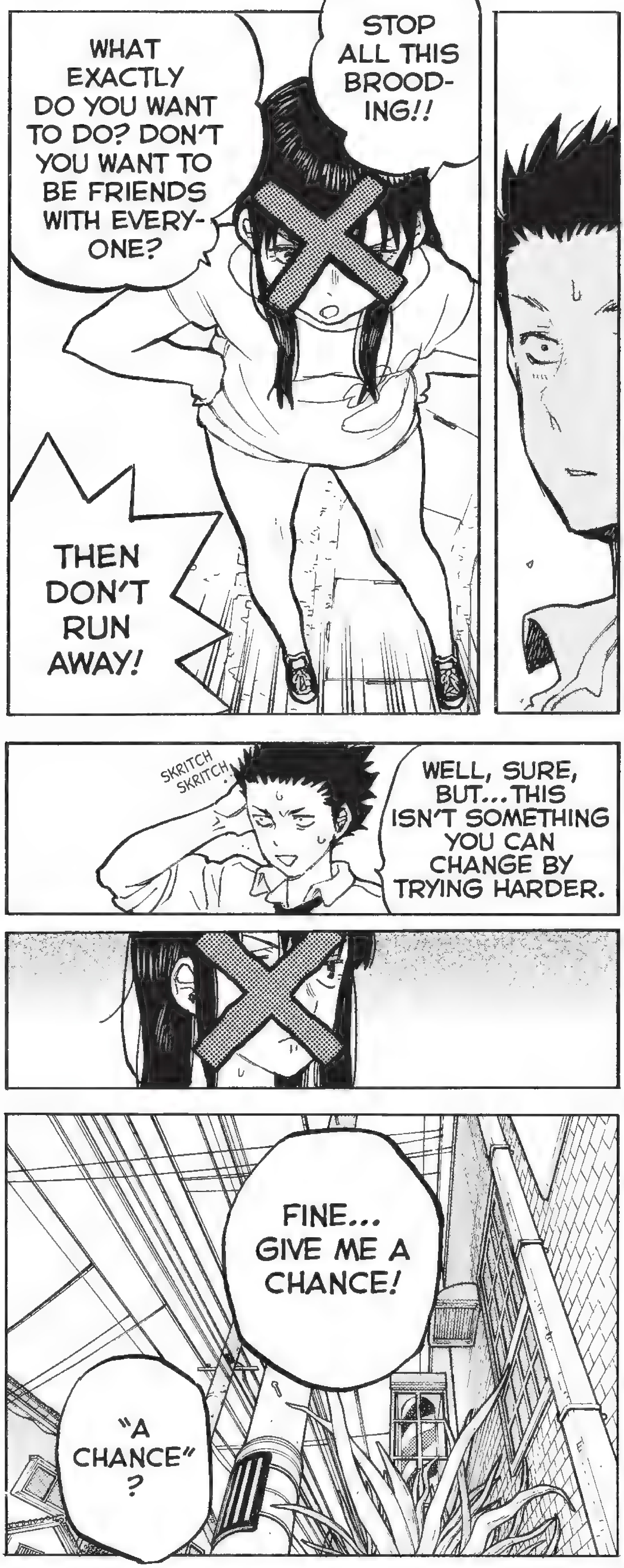
AGAIN?
THINGS TURNED OUT LIKE THIS AGAIN.
AND IT'S MY OWN FAULT...
...I KNOW THAT.
MIKI IS RIGHT...
...I PROBABLY ALTERED MY MEMORIES TO MAKE MYSELF FEEL BETTER.

IT'S NO USE. I DON'T KNOW.
I CAN'T REMEMBER.
DAMN IT.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO BELIEVE ANYMORE.
MAYBE I'M THE LEAST RELIABLE OF ALL...
I'M EMBARRASSED TO BE ALIVE.
I WANNA GO SOMEPLACE WHERE THERE'S NO ONE AROUND.
SOMEPLACE WHERE THERE ISN'T A SINGLE SOUL WHO KNOWS ME.

HUH? IT'S JUST YOU?
WH-WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?!
AREN'T WE LIKE...? MEETING AT THE BRIDGE TODAY? I THOUGHT WE COULD GO TOGETHER...
...WITH KAWAICCHI AND THE OTHERS...
MIYOKO ALREADY LEFT, SO LIKE...
PERFECT TIMING!
GIVE ME A LIFT!
!
KREEK
SORRY, BUT YOU'LL HAVE TO WALK THE REST OF THE WAY YOURSELF.
ISHIDA
注意
HEY!
WHY HERE?

KLUNK
SORRY, BUT I DON'T THINK... I'LL BE ABLE TO HELP WITH THE MOVIE FROM NOW ON.
GIVE MY REGARDS TO EVERYONE AT THE BRIDGE.
HUH? WHY NOT?
I MADE MIKI CRY.
I ASKED IF SHE HAD, LIKE, TOLD OUR CLASS ABOUT...
...ME MAKING SHOKO CHANGE SCHOOLS AND STUFF...
I DIDN'T MEAN TO ACCUSE HER, BUT...
I GOT ANGRY...
...AND EVERYTHING KIND OF CAME OUT...
SO NOW EVERYONE KNOWS I WAS A HUGE BULLY AND A REAL JERK.
EVEN SATOSHI AND TOMOHIRO...
I SEE... KAWAICCHI SPILLED IT, HUH?
...
SO STARTING TOMORROW, I'M DEFINITELY ALL ALONE AGAIN.

WAIT, DID THOSE TWO SAY THEY HATE YOU?
NO...BUT I'M SURE THEY DO.
HOW DO YOU KNOW?
LET'S GO TO THE BRIDGE.
NO... LISTEN...
I'M SURE THIS DAY WAS FATED TO COME SOONER OR LATER.
I CAN'T AVOID IT...
...EVEN IF I ERASED THE PAST... I'D STILL BE REMINDED SOMEDAY THAT I DON'T GET ALONG WITH OTHERS...
THERE'S NEVER ENOUGH PUNISHMENT...
...FOR A GUY LIKE ME...


STOP ALL THIS BROODING!!
WHAT EXACTLY DO YOU WANT TO DO? DON'T YOU WANT TO BE FRIENDS WITH EVERYONE?
THEN DON'T RUN AWAY!
SKRITCH SKRITCH
WELL, SURE, BUT...THIS ISN'T SOMETHING YOU CAN CHANGE BY TRYING HARDER.
FINE... GIVE ME A CHANCE!
"A CHANCE"?

SCREW KARMA!
注

BACK IN MIDDLE SCHOOL ...
...WHEN YOU WERE ALL ALONE...
...I JUST WATCHED.
I DON'T WANT TO STAND BY AND "JUST WATCH" ANYMORE.
SO...
...THIS IS ME, TRYING.
IF IT DOESN'T WORK, YOU CAN BLAME ME.
SO LIKE...
...LET'S GO TO THE BRIDGE.
WHY...?
...
ALL RIGHT!
ガタッ KLUNK
OH, HEY!

GET ON!
OKAY ...

SKREEK!
WE'RE HERE.
LET'S GO.
HEY!

CHAPTER 39: JUST SOME PASSERBY

...
THERE YOU ARE, YA-SHO!
YOU LOOK...
...KIND OF DOWN, SHOYA.
I HEARD THE STORY FROM MIKI.
AND HOW YOU REGRET WHAT YOU DID.

GO ON...
OKAY.
SHOYA...
I DIDN'T MEAN TO OUT YOU LIKE THAT.
I'M SORRY...
OH...
YEAH...
I'M SORRY T—
BUT IT'S YOUR FAULT, TOO, SHOYA.

TRYING TO INTIMIDATE ME IN THE CLASSROOM, OF ALL PLACES...
IF IT BOTHERS YOU SO MUCH, YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE BULLIED ANYONE IN THE FIRST PLACE.
...
WAIT, KAWAI-CCHI!
WE...
...DON'T HAVE ANY RIGHT TO LECTURE SHOYA ABOUT THIS!
"WE"?
YOU'RE WRONG, NAO.

UNLIKE ME...
...YOU *ACTIVELY* BULLIED SHOKO!
DON'T LUMP ME IN WITH YOU.
...
NAO...
...
YEAH...
WE *ARE* DIFFERENT.

YOU WERE JUST A GIGGLING FOLLOWER! UNLIKE YOU, I ACTUALLY STRUGGLED!
I'M CONFIDENT THAT WHAT I WENT THROUGH MEANT MORE!
WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO SAY?!
HEY!
COOL IT!
EEK!
YOU'RE DIRTY! DON'T TOUCH ME!
WHAP
"MEANT MORE"?!
AND THAT MAKES ALL YOUR BAD-MOUTHING OKAY?!

I WAS FORCED TO GO ALONG WITH IT IN THE FIRST PLACE!
BY YOU, NAO!!
HUH ?!
WHAT DO *YOU* THINK, MIYOKO?!
SHE BAD-MOUTHED *YOU* ALL THE TIME, DIDN'T SHE?!
M-
ME?
I...
B-BACK THEN, I, UM...
...

...YOU WERE BOTH SCARY...
WHOSE SIDE ARE YOU ON, MIYOKO?!
I'M NOT ON ANYONE'S SIDE!!

STOP IT...
...YOU GUYS.
JUST GO HOME FOR TODAY.
IT'S ALL MY FAULT.
I'M THE ONE WHO CAUSED ALL THIS.
SO STOP FIGHTING.
...I HATE THAT KIND OF LOGIC!
IT DOESN'T SOLVE ANYTHING.
NAOKA.

YOU'RE NOT MUCH DIFFERENT FROM MIKI.
WHETHER IT BE FROM THE NOSE OR THE EYES, GUNK IS STILL GUNK.
QUIT SCREECHING. IT'S LAUGHABLE.
...!
SHOYA ...
THAT'S NO WAY TO TALK TO...
STOP PRETENDING YOU CARE, MIYOKO.
WE ALL KNOW HOW QUICK YOU ARE TO RUN.
THAT'S WHY YOU GET BULLIED.
NO, I...
WHAT'S GOTTEN INTO YOU, SHOYA?

MIKI.
YOU DISGUST ME FROM THE VERY BOTTOM OF MY HEART.
PLEASE STOP TALKING.
YA-SHO!
I'M ON YOUR SIDE, OKAY?!
SHUT UP, TOMOHIRO!
STOP SAYING YOU'RE ON MY SIDE WHEN YOU BARELY KNOW ME!
YA-SHO!
THAT'S ENOUGH! I'M GOING HOME!

...YOU'RE JUST IN A BAD MOOD TODAY, RIGHT?
YA-SHO?
...
...
THE MOVIE... CAN BE RESUMED WHENEVER.
WHEN YOU FEEL BETTER... SHOOT ME A TEXT, OKAY?
I'M GONNA GO, TOO... SHO.
!
WE'LL HAVE TO CALL TODAY OFF...
LET'S HANG OUT AGAIN...
...

SORRY, SHOYA...
EVERYTHING I DO BACKFIRES...
HONESTLY...
I'M SICK OF MYSELF.
NO MATTER HOW GOOD A PERSON YOU THINK YOU'VE BECOME...
...SOMEDAY, YOU GET WHAT'S COMING TO YOU, HUH?

YOU SAID YOU WANTED TO HIT ME BEFORE, RIGHT?
GO AHEAD AND DO IT IF YOU WANT...
HUH?
YOU MEAN IT?
SHO-YA!!

WHAM
—!!
!
'KAY ...
SEE YOU NEXT SEMESTER.
HEY.
WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE?

JUST A PASSER-BY DOING MY PART.

OH...
THAT REMINDS ME.

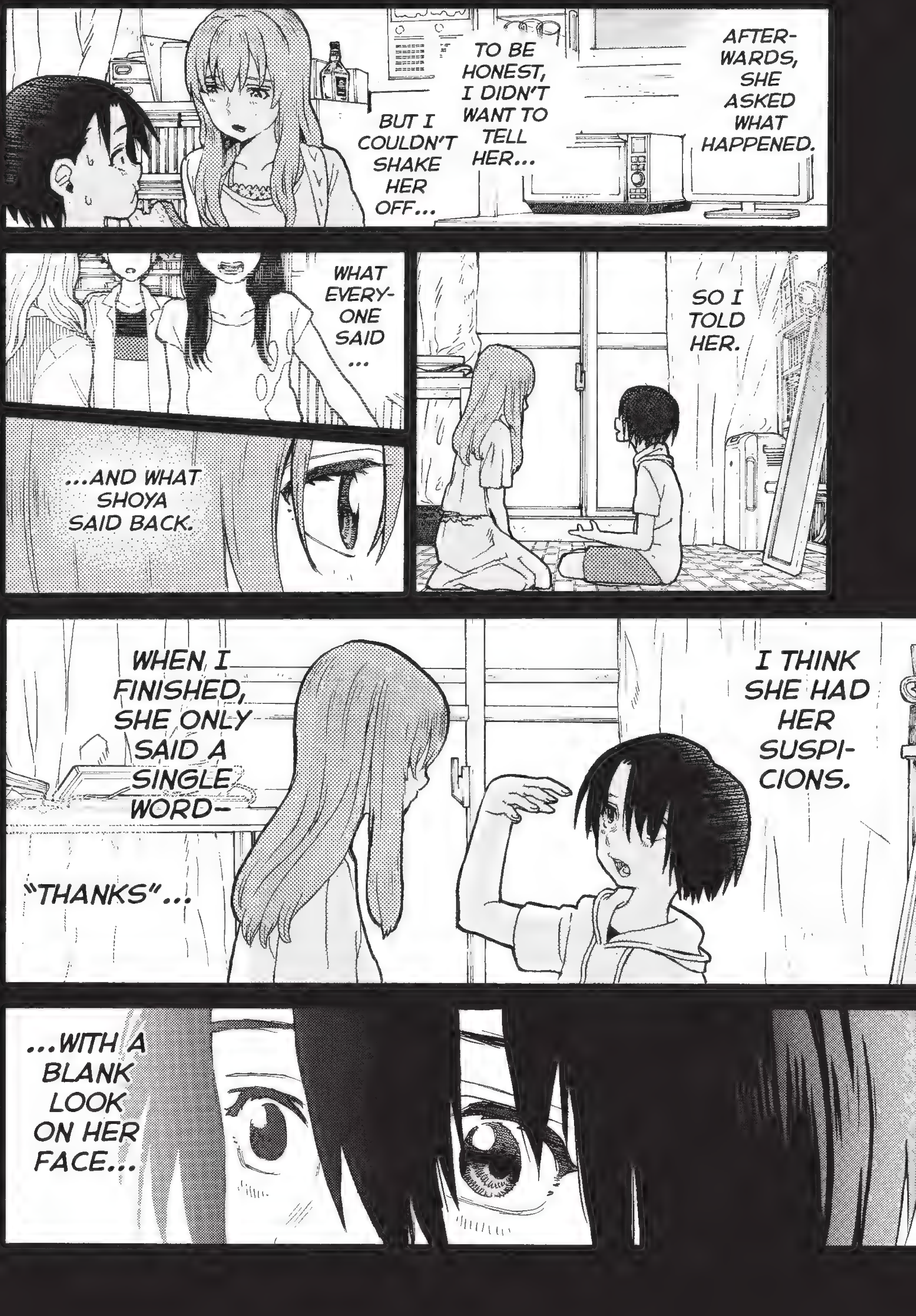
SINCE IT'S...
...SUMMER BREAK...
WHY DON'T WE GO...
...SOMEWHERE FUN?
I'M SORRY, EVERYONE...

CHAPTER 40: PRETEND DATE

YOU SURE YOU DON'T WANNA COME?
YEAH.
EVEN *I* WOULDN'T BUTT IN ON A DATE.
"DATE"?! IT'S *NOT* A DATE, YUZURU!
WHAP
SHOYA ...

YOU COULD'VE AT LEAST KISSED HER BY NOW.
WHAP
AS IF! YOU GOOF!
HAHA! DON'T JOKE LIKE THAT!
I MIGHT SERIOUSLY DO IT!
WELL, WHY DON'T WE GET GOING?
SEE YA.

SHOYA'S ...
...ACTING NUTS.
CHOMP
ARE THOSE TWO GONNA BE OKAY?
SHOYA DID SOMETHING AWFUL TO HIS FRIENDS.
THE WAY I SEE IT, HE RID HIMSELF OF A BUNCH OF ANNOYANCES.
THE TURD-HEAD'S FILM PROJECT WENT UP IN A PUFF OF SMOKE.
AND, UNABLE TO HEAR WHAT WAS BEING SAID, SIS JUST STOOD THERE FLUSTERED.


AFTERWARDS, SHE ASKED WHAT HAPPENED.
TO BE HONEST, I DIDN'T WANT TO TELL HER...
BUT I COULDN'T SHAKE HER OFF...
SO I TOLD HER.
WHAT EVERYONE SAID...
...AND WHAT SHOYA SAID BACK.
I THINK SHE HAD HER SUSPICIONS.
WHEN I FINISHED, SHE ONLY SAID A SINGLE WORD—
"THANKS"...
...WITH A BLANK LOOK ON HER FACE...

KA-KLUNK
KA-KLUNK
KA-KLUNK
OH! GOURDS!
LOOK! LOOK! THEY'VE GOT GOURDS HERE!
GOURDS! GOURDS!
...
GASP

WHAP
WHAP
SMILE
YEAH! THEY'RE GOURDS, RIGHT?
BUZZ
BUZZ
BUZZZ
ショップ
I'M STARVING!
WANNA START BY GRABBING LUNCH?

季節料理
TODAY'S ON ME!
YOU'LL PAY YOURSELF?
OH... YEAH, OF COURSE. SORRY FOR BUTTING IN...
BOY, THIS LOOKS GOOD!
デーン! TA-DAH!
もぐ もぐ CHEW CHEW
AHHH, THIS IS GOOD!
DON'T THINGS TASTE BETTER WHEN YOU EAT OUTDOORS, SHOKO?
THIS IS *REALLY* GOOD!

YOU'D BETTER STAY AWAY FROM SHOYA.
HE'S A BULLY.
THIS CURRY'S GOOD, ISN'T IT, SHOKO?
CHOMP
CHOMP
CHOMP
ISN'T IT?
ISN'T IT GOOD?!
NOD
RIGHT? ISN'T IT GOOD?

WOW, A WATERFALL...
IT SAYS HERE THAT THEY HAVE A WATERFALL, SHOKO.
LET'S GO SEE THE WATERFALL!
HAVE YOU EVER BEEN TO A WATERFALL BEFORE?
...
OOH, A WATERFALL!
THERE REALLY *IS* A WATERFALL!
ドド
ZSHH
ドド
ZSHH
ド
ZSHH
ド
ZSHH
ドド
ZSHH
THEY SAY THE WATER HERE GRANTS ETERNAL YOUTH! DID YOU KNOW THAT?!
TAKE A SIP, SHOKO!
ドド
ZSHH
SPLASH
ドド
ZSH-SHHH
IT MIGHT MAKE YOU IMMORTAL!

YOU'D BETTER STAY AWAY FROM SHOYA.
HE'S A BULLY.
AHHH, THIS IS GOOD!
THIS WATER'S GOOD, ISN'T IT, SHOKO?
GLUG
GLUG
GLUG
NOD
RIGHT? ISN'T IT GOOD?

IT'S HUGE!
THIS PLACE IS TOTALLY HUGE, HUH, SHOKO?
LET'S GO OVER THERE, SHOKO!
OVER THERE!
LOOK, SHOKO! A STOVE!
A STOVE! A STOVE!
ISN'T THAT FRIGGIN' HILARIOUS?!
WOW, THIS IS PRETTY FUN, HUH, SHOKO?
RIGHT?
HUH? WHERE'D SHE GO?
SHOKO?
AH, I GUESS CALLING FOR HER WON'T HELP, HUH?

YOU'D BETTER STAY AWAY FROM SHOYA.
HE'S A BULLY.
SHOKO!
SHOKO!
AH, I GUESS CALLING FOR HER WON'T HELP, HUH?
GLANCE
GLANCE
THERE SHE IS!

ズル
SLIP
SHO-KO!!
ダッ
DASH
ガシッ!!
GRAB!!
ゴッ
KRAK
OH.

YOU'D BETTER STAY AWAY FROM SHOYA.
HE'S A BULLY.
SHWIP
ROLL
ROLL
SH— WAH!
SLIDE...
ズリリ...
HAHA...
YEOUCH...
THE WATER FROM THE WATERFALL SAVED ME.

DRAG...
I-IT'S OKAY! I CAN STAND ON MY OWN!
DRAG...
...
HUH? WHAT ARE YOU APOLOGIZING FOR?
YOU'RE NOT THE REASON I FELL.
FOR EVERYTHING THAT'S HAPPENED?

HA...
HA-HA...
...
THAT'S NOT TRUE AT ALL!

IT'S FINE!
I JUST FELL ON MY OWN, OKAY?!
HUP!
STAGGER

"NOTHING GOOD COMES FROM BEING AROUND ME."
APPARENTLY, THAT'S WHAT SIS TOLD SHOYA.
Olivsoil
THUNK THUNK
FOOLISH SIS...

CHAPTER 41: EVERYONE

BZZZT
BZZZT
BZZZT
BZZZT
BZZZT
YOU'VE BEEN IGNORING YOUR PHONE LATELY, HUH, SHOYA?
...
IT JUST RANG, AND IT WAS RINGING YESTERDAY, TOO.
IT'S GETTING ANNOYING, SO DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT.
...
BEEP
Naoka Ueno 18:22
Naoka Ueno Yesterday
Naoka Ueno Saturday
Naoka Ueno Friday
Ueno Thursday
Naoka Ueno Wednesday
...

WAH!
ブーッ!!
Bzzzt!!
THUMP THUMP
BEEP
FWIP
Slide to power off

from: Miyoko Sahara

sub: No Subject

sub: No Subject

How can you prove you've grown as a person?

WUH?
BLINK
NSORED BY THE S.L.I.C.
Suimon sign languag club
YO!
OVER HERE!
WHY ARE YOU HERE?
CURIOSITY.
WHAT'S *THAT* SUPPOSED TO MEAN?
SORRY, SHOKO. WANT ME TO LEAVE?

OH, GOOD.
NOW, LET'S BEGIN.
...
YEAH, I CAN'T SAY I EXPECTED ANYONE TO SHOW UP...

HAVE YOU AND MIYOKO BEEN TEXTING RECENTLY, SHOKO?
OH... YOU HAVEN'T, HUH?
THINGS ARE AWKWARD BETWEEN THEM RIGHT NOW BECAUSE OF YOU, SHOYA.
Y...
...YEAH, I GUESS SO...
SORRY, SHOKO...
...THIS IS ALL MY FAULT...
AND I KNOW YOU WERE LOOKING FORWARD... TO FINISHING THE MOVIE, TOO...
...
...
AH— I DON'T WANNA GO BACK TO SCHOOL NEXT SEMESTER.
I WISH SUMMER VACATION WOULD LAST FOREVER...

...
...
...
WANNA GO SOMEWHERE AGAIN TOMORROW?
OHHH!
WH-WHAT?
LET'S GO SOMEWHERE!
YOU'RE GETTING GOOD AT ASKING HER OUT.
SHUT UP. WHAT, YOU WANNA COME, TOO?

MAYBE HE WANTS TO CHALLENGE WHAT SIS SAID...
"NOTHING GOOD COMES FROM BEING AROUND ME."
HAHAHA!
HAHAHA-HAHAHA!
HAHA-HAHA!
SHUT UP DOWN THERE!!
Cheese Burger
チーズバーガー
WASN'T THAT A GOOD MOVIE, SIS?
ACTION SURE IS GREAT ON A BIG SCREEN, HUH?
TOMOHIRO WOULD HAVE LOVED IT.

化粧室 RESTROOM
B-
BUT ENOUGH ABOUT HIM...
LET'S GO HAVE SOME FUN TOMORROW, TOO!
THAT'S REAL SUDDEN.
WE CAN'T TOMORROW. WE'RE MAKING SWEETS.
WOW, SO THE NISHIMIYA HOUSEHOLD MAKES SWEETS BY HAND, HUH?
THAT'S NICE... VERY GIRLY!
WHAT?! ME, TOO?!
HUH? YOU'RE REALLY INVITING HIM, SIS?!
I THOUGHT SHE'D AVOID BEING AROUND SHOYA...
...HAS SHE ALREADY GOTTEN OVER IT?

ALL RIGHT! LET'S MAKE 'EM TOGETHER!
WE'LL WELCOME YOU WITH OPEN ARMS, SHOYA!
IF SIS IS HAPPY, THEN, WHATEVER!
COME ON IN.
PARDON ME.
SO THIS IS SHOKO'S HOUSE, EH...?
INHALE~
YEAH, IT *DOES* SMELL LIKE HER...
THAT'S CREEPY, DUDE.

BY THE WAY, WHAT ARE WE MAKING?
A CAKE.
...IS IT SOMEONE'S BIRTHDAY?
MOM'S.
WHA-?!
YOU THINK IT'S OKAY FOR ME TO BE HERE?
SHHH
SHE MIGHT KILL YOU.
...
SHK SHK
GA-CHAK
HAPPY!
POP
FORTY-FOURTH BIRTHDAY!!
44

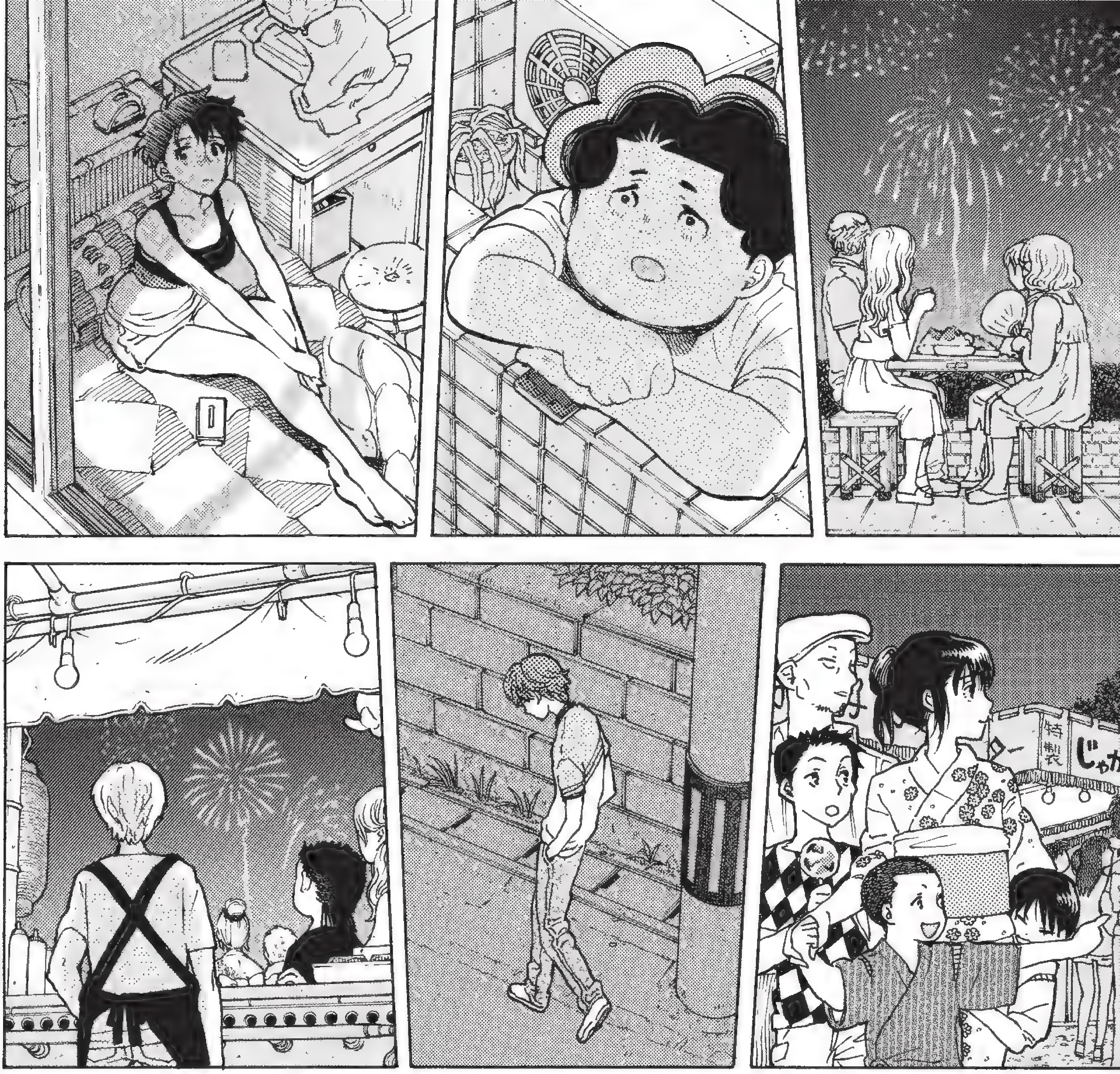
WHAT IS THE MEANING OF THIS?
WHAT IS HE DOING HERE, SHOKO?!
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU LET A BOY INTO THIS HOUSE!
AND ON SUCH AN IMPORTANT OCCASION!!
THAT GOES FOR YOU, TOO!
WOULD YOU PLEASE STOP TRYING TO LEAD MY GIRLS DOWN THE WRONG PATH?!
DO YOU UNDERSTAND THE POSITION YOU ARE—
WELL...
I SUPPOSE THERE'S NO REASON I *CAN'T* EAT IT.

SMILE
SMILE
...
GOOD THING YOU DIDN'T GET KILLED, EH, SHOYA?
Y... YAY.
COME TO THINK OF IT, YUZURU...
...I SUBMITTED ONE OF YOUR PHOTOS FOR THE PREFECTURAL CONTEST.
HUH? WHAH AHH YOU TALHINH ABOUH? YOU DIHN'H AHK MHE!
SHOKO SAID SHE WANTED TO SUBMIT ONE FOR A PRIZE AND ASKED ME TO CHOOSE.
WHICH ONE DID YOU CHOOSE, MA'AM?
I DIDN'T TAKE THEM TO SHOW JUST ANYBODY.
WHO ASKED YOU?

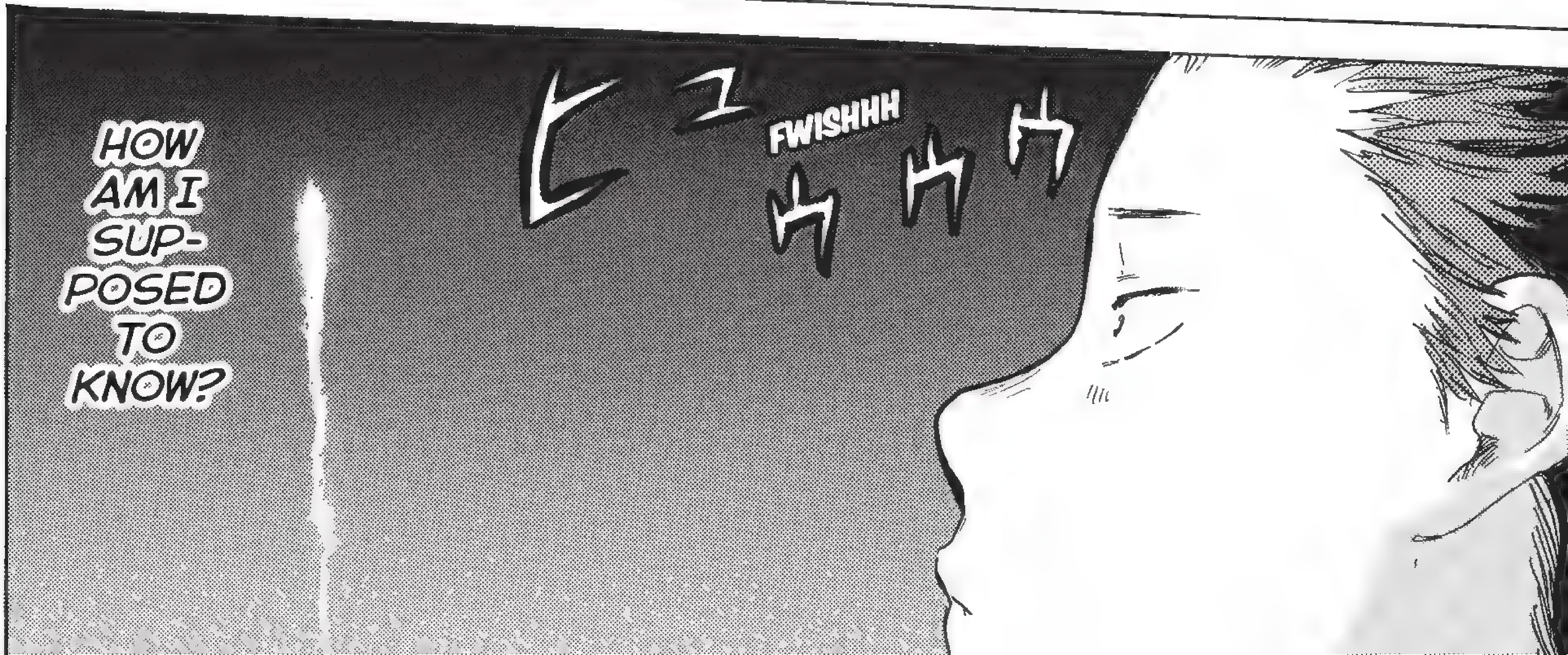
OH, IT'S NOT A CORPSE.
REMEMBER THAT BIRD YOU FOUND FOR ME? THAT'S THE MARK IT LEFT.
OH YEAH. I DON'T LIKE THIS PHOTO.
ENOUGH ABOUT THAT, THOUGH.
YOU'RE GOING TO SEE THE FIREWORKS NEXT WEEK, RIGHT, SHOYA?
SUMMER FIREWORKS
OH, THEY'RE HAVING SOME?
I DON'T KNOW. ARE YOU GOING, YUZURU?

YEAH! GOOD IDEA!
LET'S ALL GO TOGETHER!
TO-GETHER...
チラ GLANCE
...
WHAT?
OF COURSE I'M GOING.
BOOM

LET'S SIT HERE!
BOOM
OOOH, THEY'RE PRETTY, AREN'T THEY?
DO YOU THINK YOU COULD SEE 'EM FROM YOUR HOUSE, TOO, SHOYA?
I'LL BET EVERYONE'S WATCHING RIGHT NOW.
IT'S KIND OF NICE TO THINK EVERYONE'S LOOKING AT THE SAME THING, ISN'T IT?



How can you prove you've grown as a person?


ヒュウウウ
FWISHHH
HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO KNOW?

BOOM
BUT...
...AS LONG AS I'VE GOT THIS SMILE...
...THAT'S GOOD ENOUGH FOR ME.

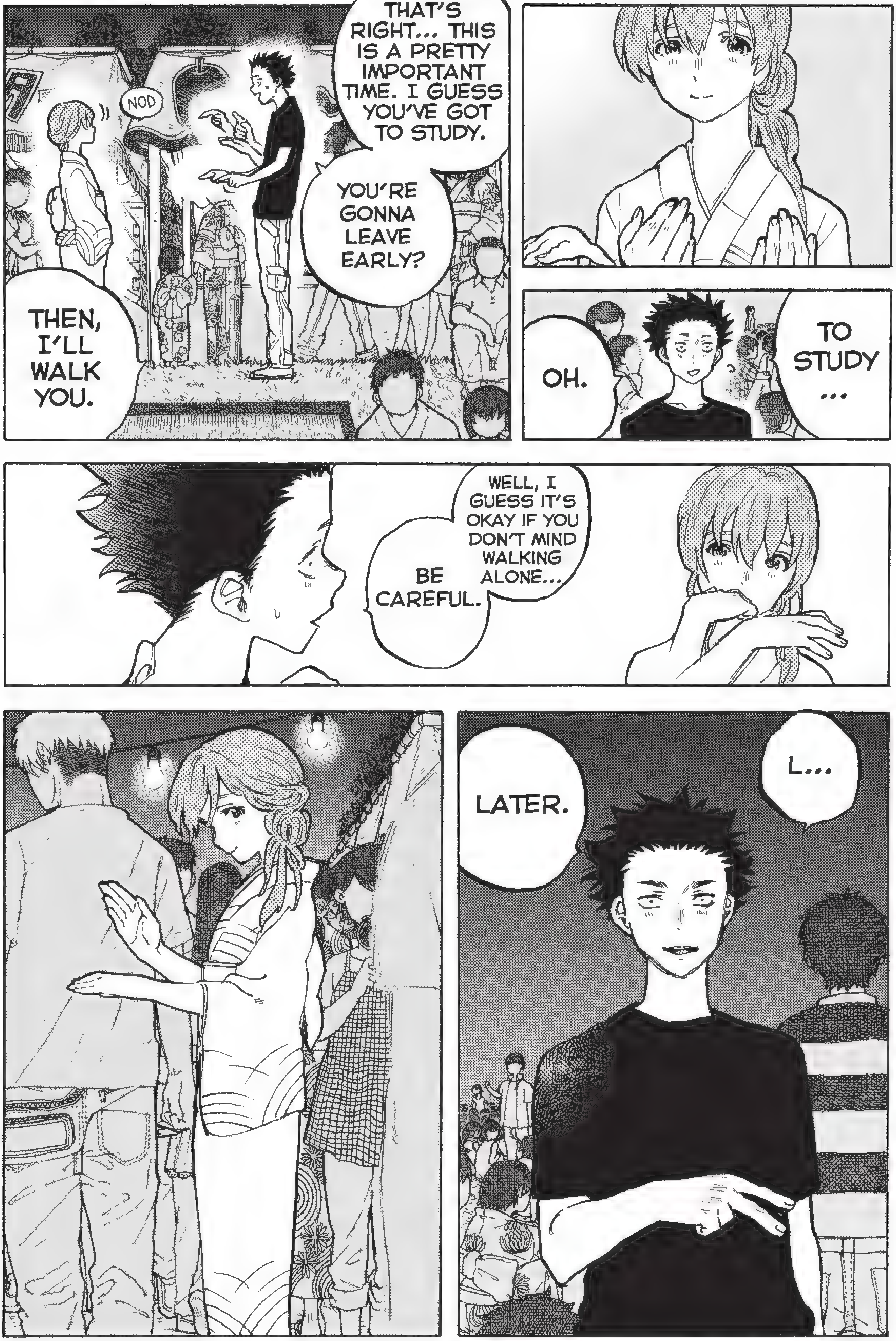
a Silent Voice

THANKS!
あんず飴
ご飴
カー
LET'S GO AROUND ONE MORE TIME!
YOU'RE NOT DONE YET?
FWISH
ヒュウウウ
COME TO THINK OF IT, I'M GLAD YOUR MOM'S BIRTHDAY WENT WELL THE OTHER DAY, HUH?

CHAPTER 42: FIREWORKS

YOUR MOM ALWAYS HAS THAT POKER FACE...
BUT SHE ATE THE CAKE, SO... SHE PROBABLY...
YEAH, SHE WAS HAPPY.
...
WH-WHEN'S YOUR BIRTHDAY, SHOKO?
JUNE 7TH?
IT ALREADY PASSED!
HUH... SO YOU'RE ALREADY EIGHTEEN, THEN...
I DIDN'T GET TO CELEBRATE WITH YOU, HUH? HAHA...
LET'S CELEBRATE YOUR BIRTHDAY TOGETHER NEXT YEAR, OKAY?
TO...
TOGETHER...

FWIP
OH... WHAT'S UP?
YOU'RE GONNA HEAD HOME?
BUT THE FIREWORKS AREN'T OVER...


TO STUDY...
OH.
THAT'S RIGHT... THIS IS A PRETTY IMPORTANT TIME. I GUESS YOU'VE GOT TO STUDY.
YOU'RE GONNA LEAVE EARLY?
NOD
THEN, I'LL WALK YOU.
WELL, I GUESS IT'S OKAY IF YOU DON'T MIND WALKING ALONE...
BE CAREFUL.
L...
LATER.

Incoming
from: Miyoko Sahara
sub: No Subject
How can you prove you've grown as a person?
I DON'T HAVE AN ANSWER TO THAT...
...BUT I CAN TRUST MY ONE CONVICTION:
"NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS, I WILL PROTECT SHOKO."
I CAN LIVE FOR THAT ALONE.
HUH?
ISN'T THAT SHOKO?

...
I'D BETTER GO WITH HER AFTER ALL...
400円
マヨネーズ
STING
OW!
FROM WHEN I FELL AT THE PARK?
WHY DID IT START HURTING NOW?
SHOYA?

WHAT HAPPENED TO SIS?
YUZU-RU.
SHE JUST LEFT.
SHE SAID SHE WANTS TO GET BACK TO STUDYING.
HUH ?!
THAT DORK! SHE DIDN'T TELL ME!
OH?
AND WE BOUGHT HER A CREPE...
...
OH... THAT'S RIGHT.
I FORGOT MY CAMERA!
SO! WILL YOU RUN HOME AND PICK IT UP FOR ME, SHOYA?
HUH ?!
TOSS
I WANNA PHOTOGRAPH THE FIREWORKS!
MAKE SURE THE BATTERY'S CHARGED.
AND IF IT'S NOT, CHARGE IT!
OH, OKAY. GOT IT...
I'M COUNTING ON YOU.
...

WHAT ARE YOU UP TO?
HEH!
...
PHEW
WHICH FLOOR WAS SHOKO'S PLACE ON AGAIN?
I CAN CALL AND ASK...
HUH?
MY PHONE ...
MY PHONE ...
THAT'S RIGHT. I LEFT IT AT HOME BECAUSE I FIGURED I WOULDN'T USE IT...
I'M PRETTY SURE IT WAS A CORNER APARTMENT... NEAR THE STAIRS.
KLIK
I'LL TAKE THE STAIRS.

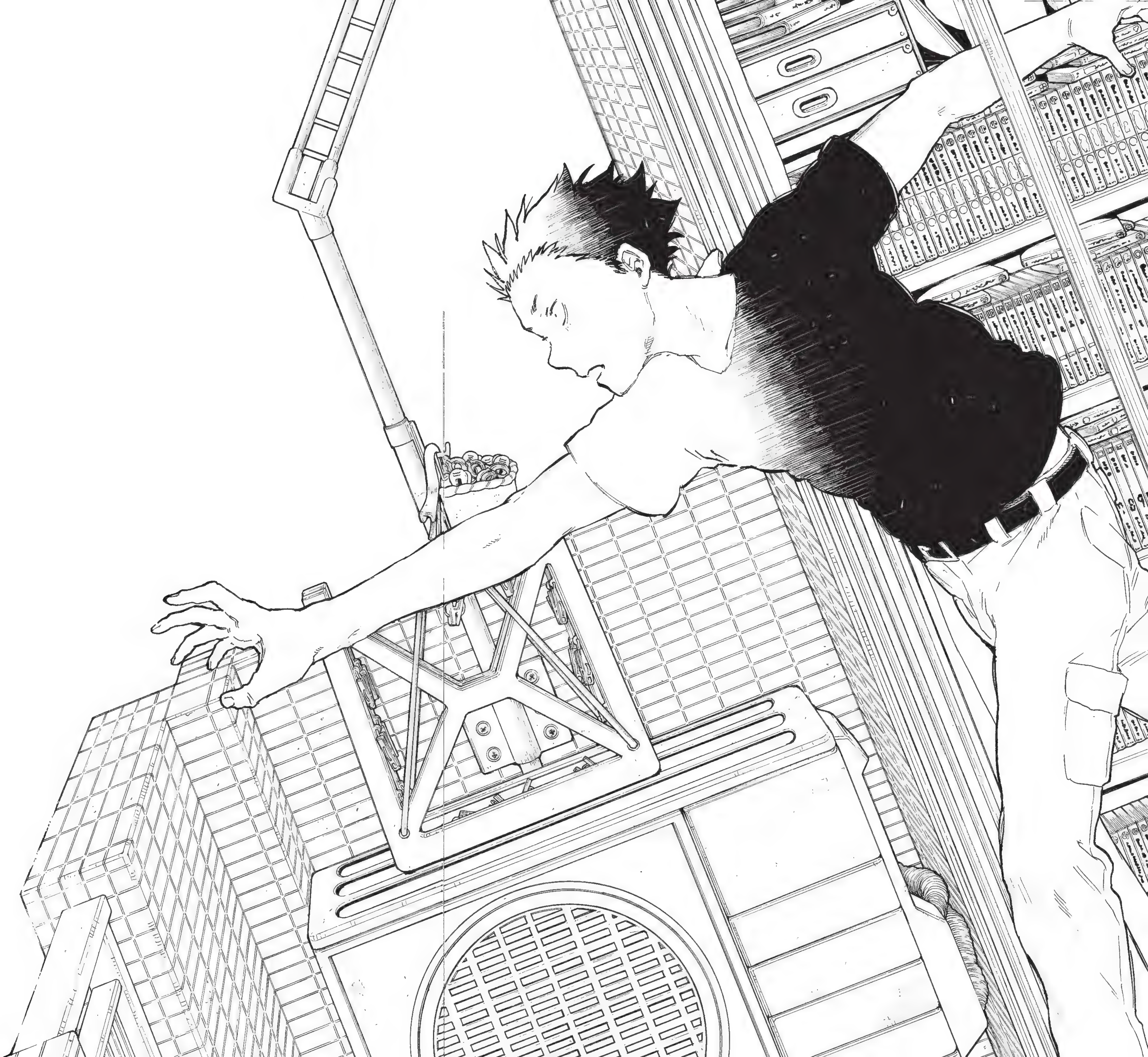
NISHIMIYA
FOUND IT.
PHEW
KREEK
BOY, IT'S DARK...
SHOKO!
YOU HERE?
THUNK
OH, THERE'S THE CAMERA.
IS IT CHARGED?
KLICK
KLICK
SNAP
HUH?
DID I PUSH THE WRONG THING?
KLIK
KLIK
KLIK

BOOM

S...
SHOKO?
ゴト
KLUNK

S-
KREEK
SHO-KO!!
STING
UNH!
FWUMF
Thank you
DIE
Thank you
for today
sorry

GH!
SHO-KO!



Continued in Vol. 6

a Silent Voice

Translation Notes

Japanese can be a difficult language for some readers, and translation is often more art than science. For your edification and reading pleasure, here are notes on some of the places where we could have gone in a different direction with our translation, or where a Japanese cultural reference is used.

Junior college, p.90

Japanese junior colleges are post-secondary schools that provide a two or three-year course of study. Graduates receive an Associates degree upon graduation. Here, Naoka may be referring to a vocational or technical-type school that specializes in art, design, or fashion. Decades ago, Japanese junior colleges were initially a school for women to continue and broaden their education after high school. Being able to graduate within three years ensured that young women could get married in their early twenties, or find temporary work quickly, before they got married. These colleges are same-sex now, and some graduates go on to enroll in four-year universities.

Hoichi the Earless, p.96

Hoichi the Earless is a well-known myth in Japan about a talented blind *biwa* (lute) player named Hoichi. A ghost talks Hoichi into coming to a graveyard to play his music. The ghost convinces Hoichi to come back again the next night. A concerned priest, in an attempt to protect Hoichi, writes sutras on Hoichi's body from head to toe and asks him to stay still; these sutras will make his body invisible to the ghost. When the ghost returns for Hoichi, it can only see what the priest forgot to write on—Hoichi's ears—floating in mid-air. The ghost angrily rips off Hoichi's ears and never comes back.

***A Silent Voice* volume 5**

KODANSHA COMICS Digital Edition

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TOMARE!

STOP

You're going the wrong way!

Manga is a completely different type of reading experience.

To start at the beginning, Go to the end!

That's right! Authentic manga is read the traditional Japanese way—from right to left, exactly the opposite of how American books are read. It's easy to follow: Just go to the other end of the book and read each page—and each panel—from right side to left side, starting at the top right. Now you're experiencing manga as it was meant to be!